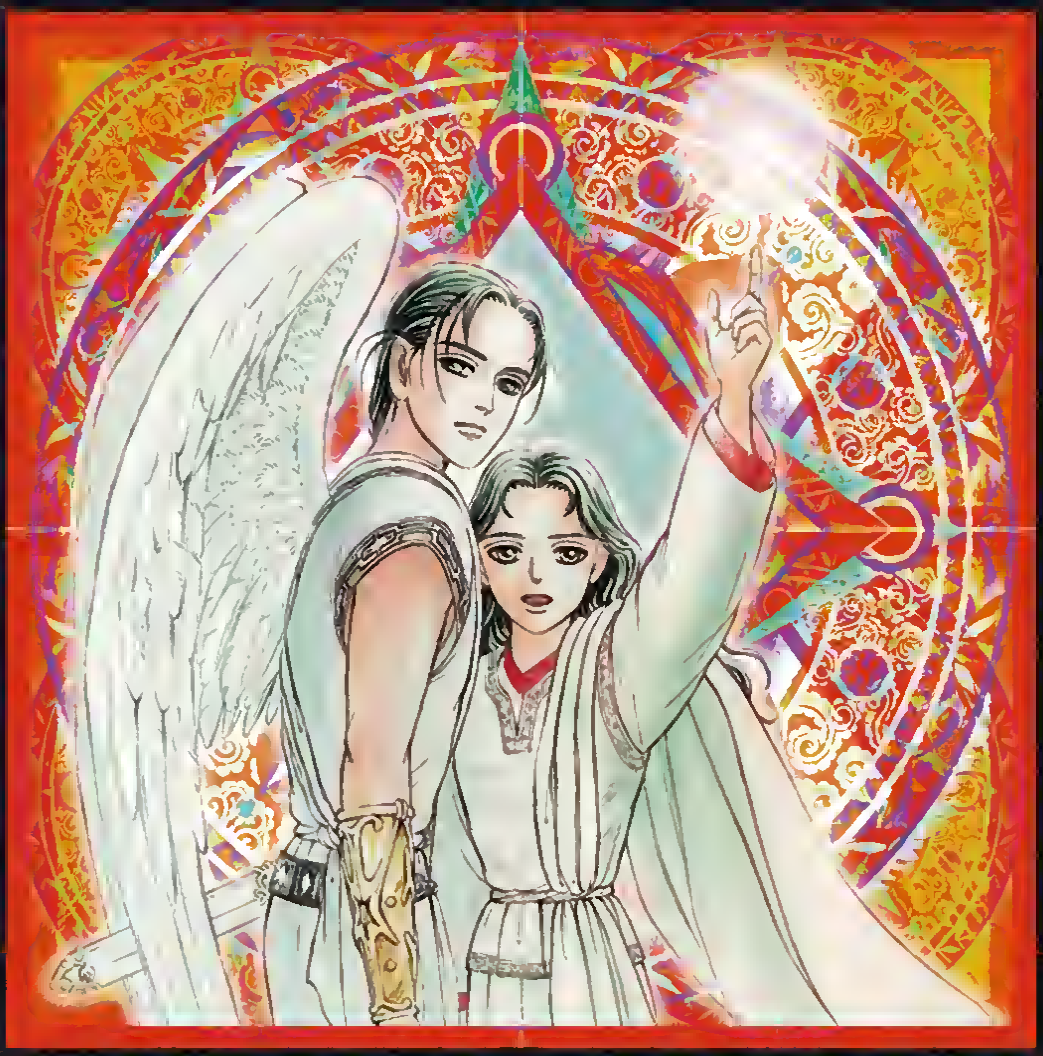
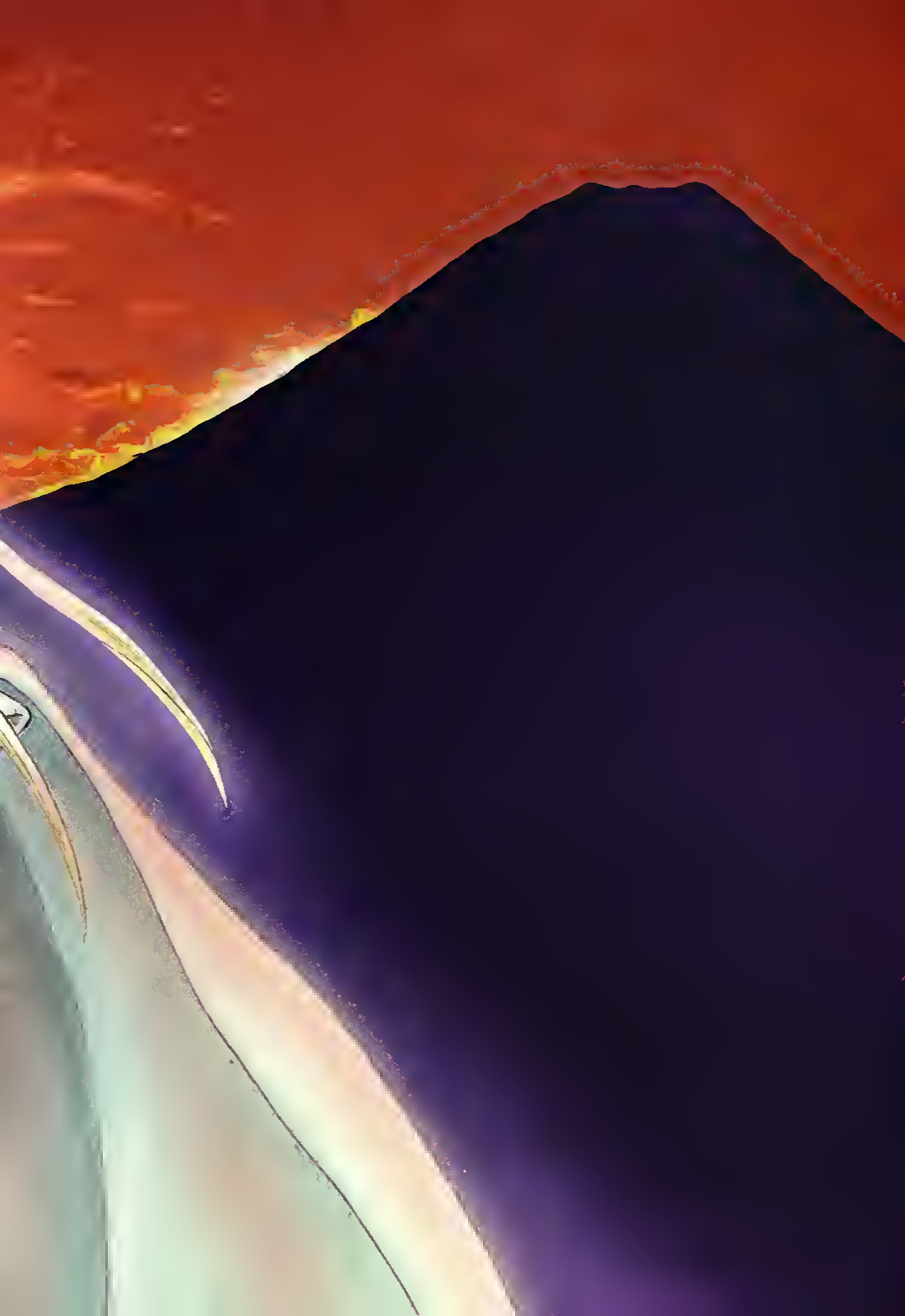
Itihasa 15



Wakako Mizuki



Therefore, we here inscribe
the fragments of the gods...

Itihasa
Part V / The Final Chapter

Recap & Main Characters

<Part I>
Long, long ago... The gods that can be seen—divided into the warring demigods and demon gods—have traveled to this once-peaceful land, and the kind-hearted tribes who worship the gods that cannot be seen have become embroiled in their war.
Toko's tribe is attacked by the Kiyu Faction, a group of demon gods under Kiyu the Silver Horned God.
Takaya, Toko and Aohiko, who escaped the attack, meet the demigod Risson, God of the True Law, and his warriors (including Katsura and Ichirota), and decide to join the group in its pursuit of the demon gods...
One day, in order to save a badly injured Takaya, Toko chants a mantra that transfers her own life force to him. As a result, Toko herself is left in serious condition. As she hovers between life and death, another Toko (!?) appears and guides her towards life, but tells her they are fated to kill each other when they meet again. Katsura falls in love with Aohiko. However, conscious of his own dark fate, Aohiko is unable to accept her feelings. On learning this, Katsura privately vows to hide her feelings and protect Aohiko for as long as she lives.
One day, seven years later, Toko learns she has a twin. As a child, her twin was kidnapped and has become one

<Part II>
Takaya and Toko are surrounded by the demon god's warriors, and Toko comes face to face with her twin, Yoko. Toko is run through by Yoko's spear, but her soul enters Yoko, and Yoko becomes convinced that she is Toko. Meanwhile, Aohiko engages Kiyu's army all by himself and is taken captive.
Just then, wings abruptly grow from Takaya's back. Like Kai, Takaya is a Mamana. Because Toko has borrowed Yoko's body, with its demon headband, Toko is compelled to kill people. Then Yachio appears to Toko. Yachio is the one who knows the divine names of all the gods. Yachio tells Toko to go to Fuji. However, the shock sends her into a deep sleep. Borrowing Aohiko's power, Toko releases her own life, choosing to live as both Toko and Yoko.

Toko (Yoko)

Meanwhile, Takaya, entrusted with Risson's divine name, sets off with Katsura for Shangri-La on Fuji to save Toko and Aohiko.

<Part III>
Takaya, Katsura and Kai are making for Fuji on foot. In a village along the way, they meet Tamia, a Mamana girl, and her father, Hakuji. This strengthens their thoughts for the as-yet-unseen land of Fuji and for Amane, the God of Universal Good.
One night, Takaya saves the demigod Kaguya, who was about to be erased by Yachio. Takaya decides to leave his companions, and, traveling with Kaguya, finally reaches the forest of illusory mists that spreads over the foothills of Fuji. There, Amane's servant Kusuto awakens, manipulates an illusion of Toko and turns its sword on Takaya.

Takaya

<Part IV>
Scales have spread over Tamia's arm, and so the group hurries toward Amane. While camping on the shore, Katsura and her group are surrounded by demon-god warriors. She is miraculously reunited with Aohiko and the others, who happened to be passing by, but then a tsunami swallows her up. Katsura survives, but Takaya, having reached Fuji, kills again and again to protect the peace of the village. He is unable to completely rid himself of his hesitation, but Kusuto plants a suggestion and converts him to Amane.
Meanwhile, Toko has received orders from Kiyu to investigate Fuji and resolves to do so. In the forest of illusory mists, she meets Takaya, but Takaya doesn't know her. As Toko wails with sadness, Yachio appears before her once more and gives her a necklace of yin stones. Toko wanders the forest of illusory mists, killing demon-god warriors. Then, using the yin stones from Yachio, she finally turns her demon headband to dust.
Meanwhile, Takaya is fighting demon gods. When Kiyu speaks the word "Toko," a disoriented Takaya plummets into the ocean!
Toko continues to subdue warriors in the forest of illusory mists. She doesn't respond to Sarai's persuasion, choosing empathy for Takaya over emotional peace.
Meanwhile, having fallen into the ocean, Takaya is rescued by Tamia. He has been forbidden from entering the forest of illusory mists, but Toko's scream reaches him. Shaking off the restraint, he takes to the sky. Takaya's memories return, and he is finally able to see Toko. Meanwhile, Katsura and Kai press on towards Fuji. On their way, Kai refuses to let go of the sacred mirror and is kidnapped by a demon god. Then, right before Takaya's eyes, he...!

Ichirota

Katsura

Aohiko

Mantra: a mysterious spell received from the gods that cannot be seen.

"Yin stone: a special stone that has negative energy. Its power is manifested through the use of mantras.Demon headband: a headband Kiyu sets on the foreheads of his demon-god warriors. When these warriors are wounded, they go berserk."

Whoa!
RUMBLE
Aohi-ko!
Get out-side!
Earth-quake!
RM RM
RM RM...
RM RM RM RM

Takaya...

I thought I heard your voice...

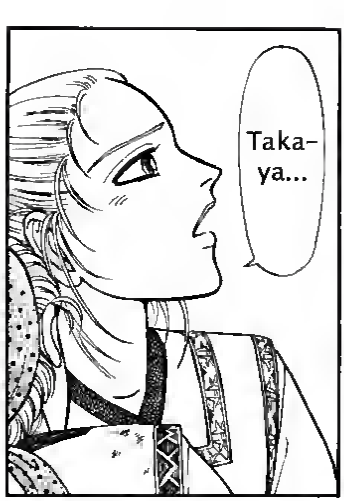
The demon god tricked him, and he...
He went over the cliff...
No... Don't. Plea- se.
I don't want to see!

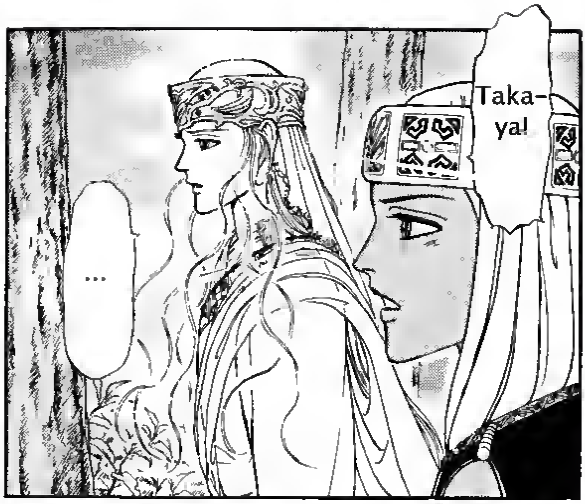
He said he was lucky.
Lucky that he'd met us...
No!
No!
No!
It's not your fault, Katsura!
I shouldn't have let him carry the sacred mirror...
It's... my fault...
I...
This kid...
He's smiling.

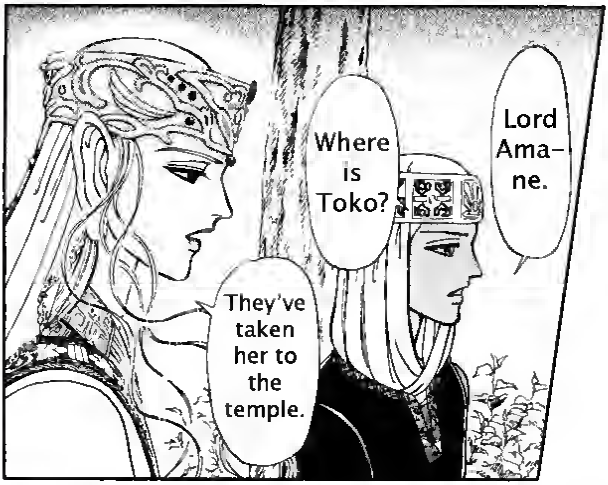
This happened because I was careless.
But I...
I should have gone back to meet you a long time ago, but...
Don't come to Fuji.
You mustn't come.
Return Kai to the earth and wait. I'll rescue Aohiko, meet up with Toko and come back here.
Takaya...?

Lord Amane!
L... Lord Amane...!?
Lord Amane!
FWOOM
Y... yes...
You are Katsura... correct?
I've borrowed Kaguya's body.

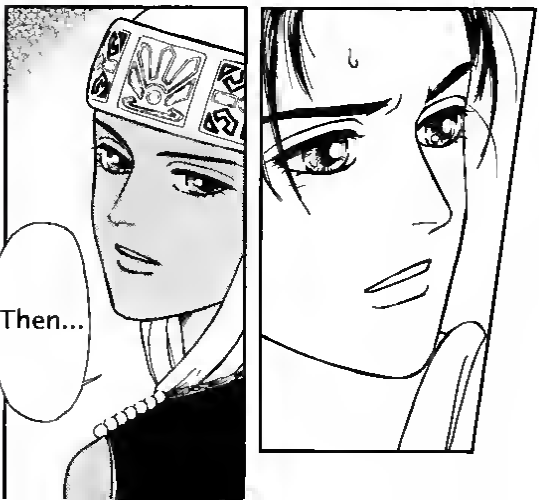
Lord Amane... The demon god who stole the mirror...
My way was barred by the demon gods who serve him.
I could have pursued him, but I thought... if I made it in time...
The poor child.
If he'd only come to my vil-lage...
The demon gods stop human time with death...
...but the demigods also stop human progress, with life.


Taka-
ya...


Taka-
ya!
...


Lord
Ama-
ne.
Where
is
Toko?
They've
taken
her to
the
temple.

I'm
leaving
Fuji.
With
Toko.

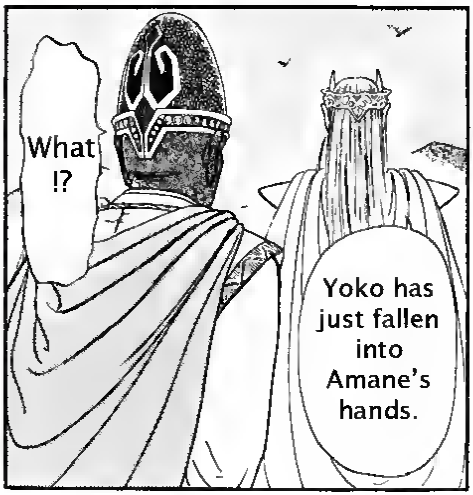

Then...

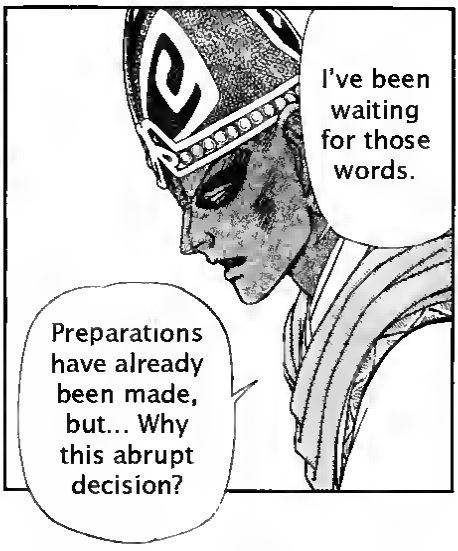
Lord Amane!
No doubt Takaya will follow shortly.
To the temple.
But only after we've settled things with the demon gods.
Leave Fuji if you wish...
If you must hate, hate me!

I'm glad I got to see you again.
Taka-ya...
... was you.
The first girl I ever fell in love with...
I'm going to Fuji, all right!?
Quit saying things like that!
I'm glad it was you, Kats-ura!

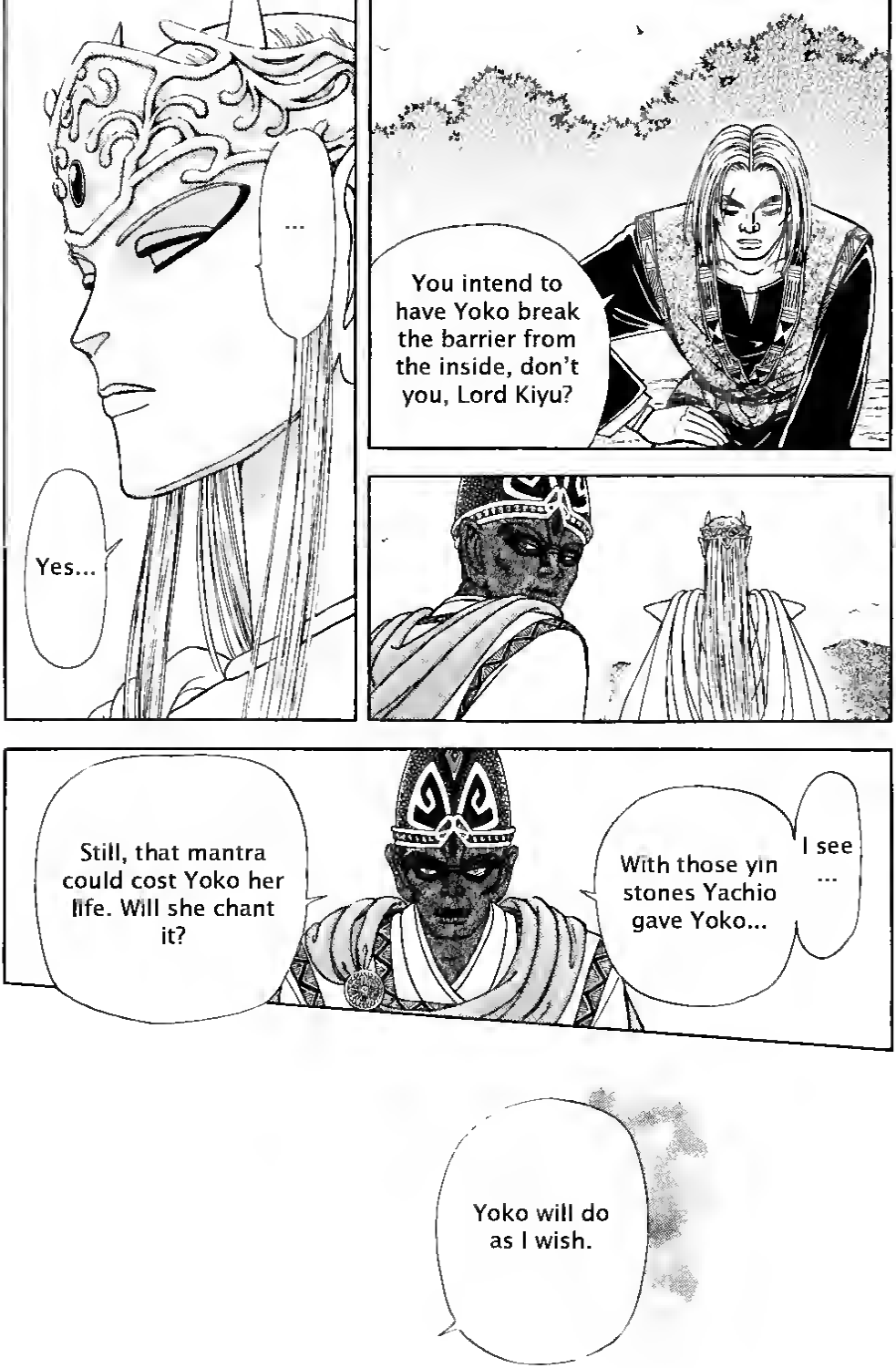
Taka-
ya!
FWOOSH
Takaya!
If you die...
...I'll never
forgive you.
Taka-
ya...

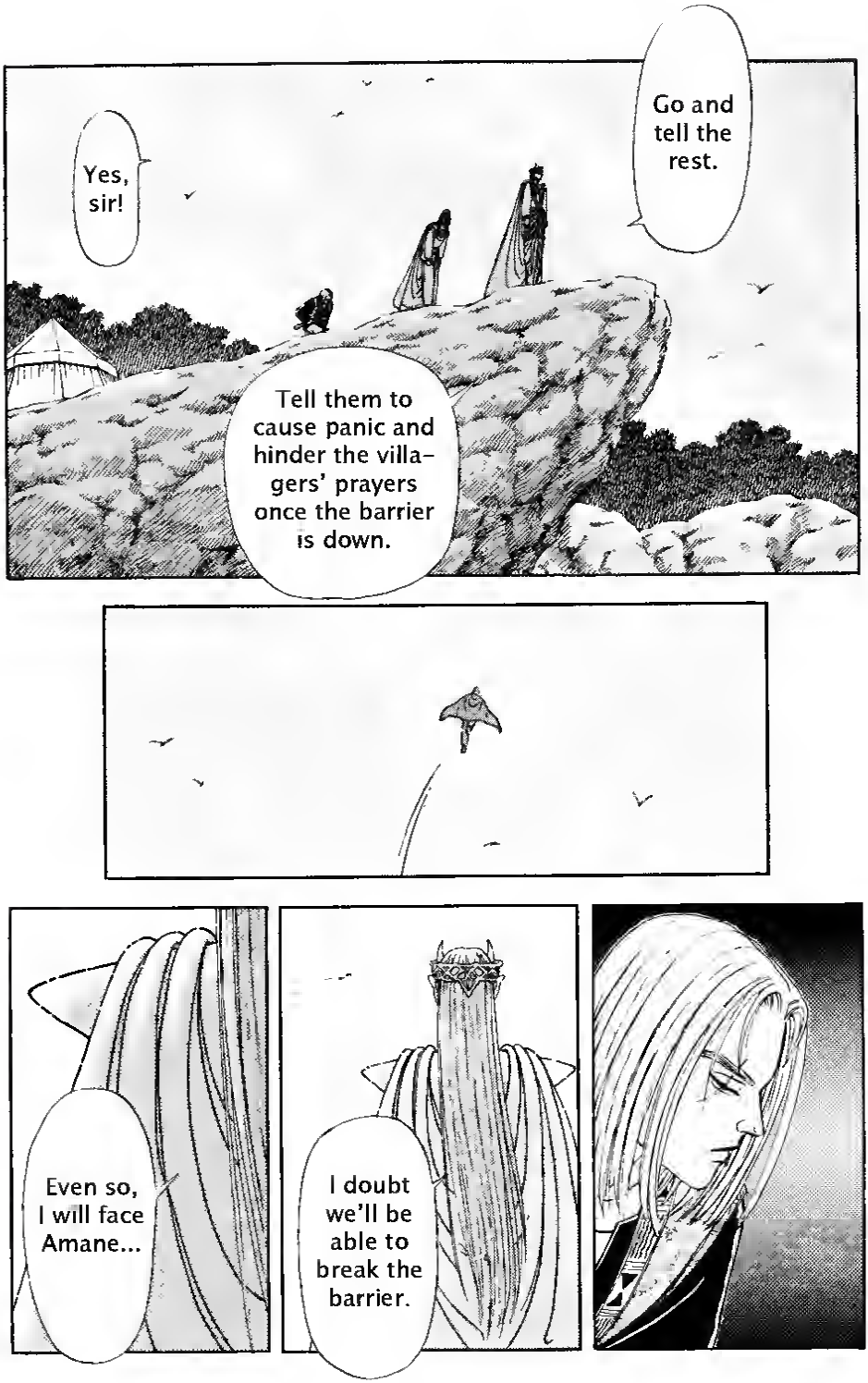
Tomor-
row...
At
dawn.

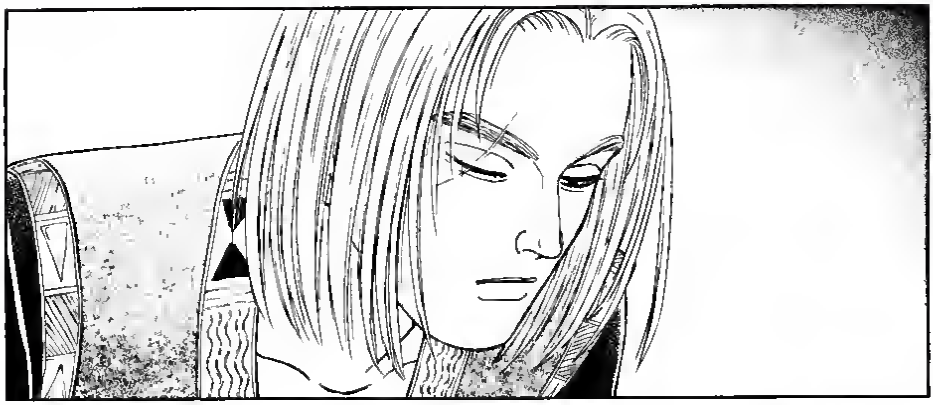

What
!?
Yoko has
just fallen
into
Amane's
hands.

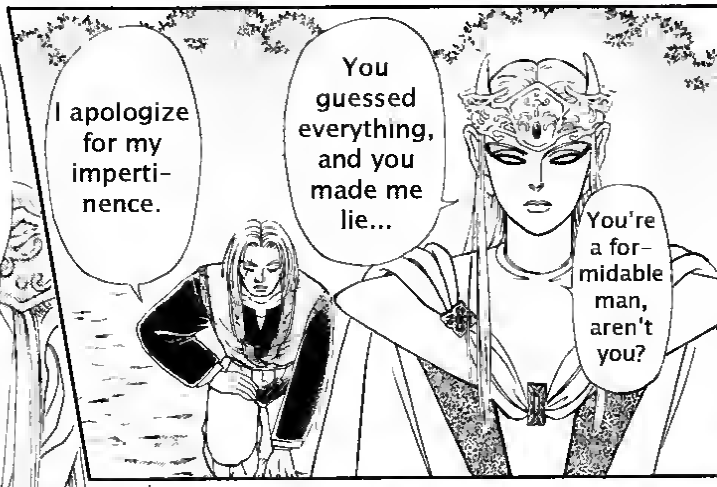

I've been
waiting
for those
words.
Preparations
have already
been made,
but... Why
this abrupt
decision?

Takaya might even turn his sword away from us, toward Amane.
Wouldn't it be better for us if someone like that killed Yoko?
The Mamana known as Kusuto has both a public and a private grudge against her.
I doubt Amane will kill her directly, but...
I must not let Yoko die.
But if Takaya is there, it will be difficult even to break the barrier, won't it?
Can anyone but Yoko open the sacred portal of the torii at Fuji's peak?
Lord Kiyu!
I know you care for Yoko, but this isn't...

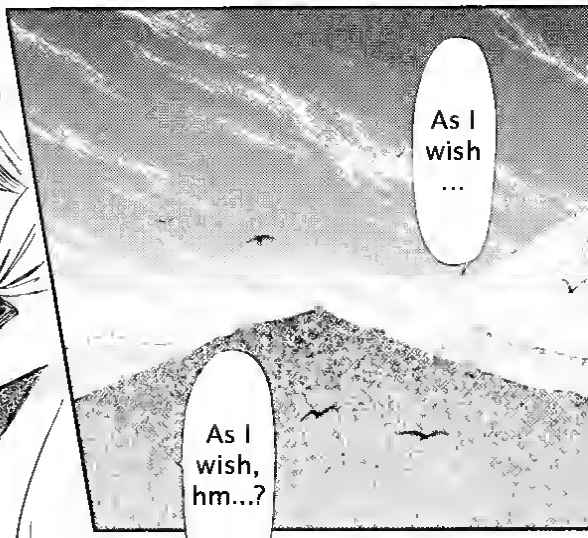

...
Yes...
You intend to have Yoko break the barrier from the inside, don't you, Lord Kiyu?
Still, that mantra could cost Yoko her life. Will she chant it?
With those yin stones Yachio gave Yoko...
I see ...
Yoko will do as I wish.

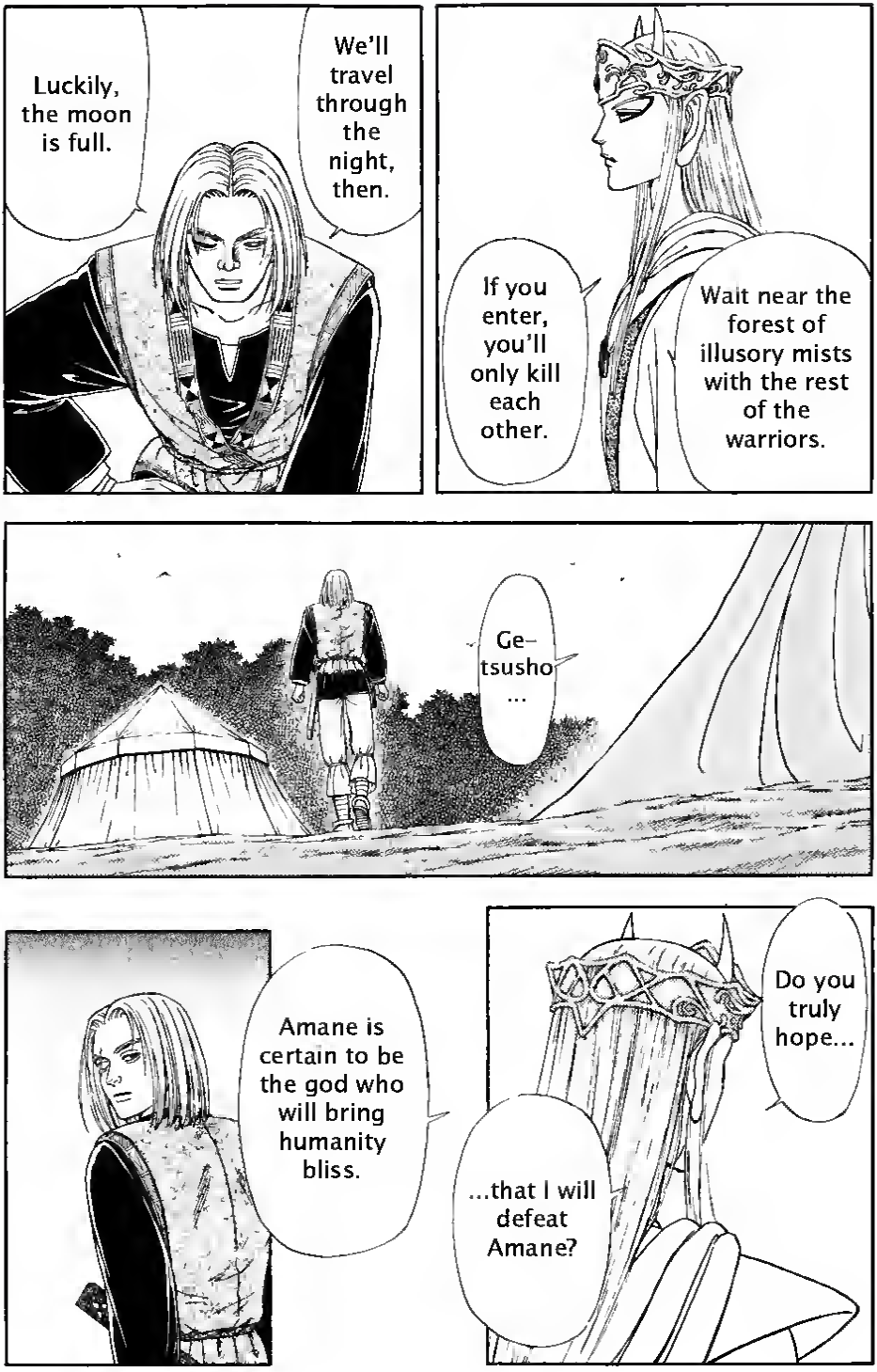

Yes, sir!
Go and tell the rest.
Tell them to cause panic and hinder the villagers' prayers once the barrier is down.
Even so, I will face Amane...
I doubt we'll be able to break the barrier.



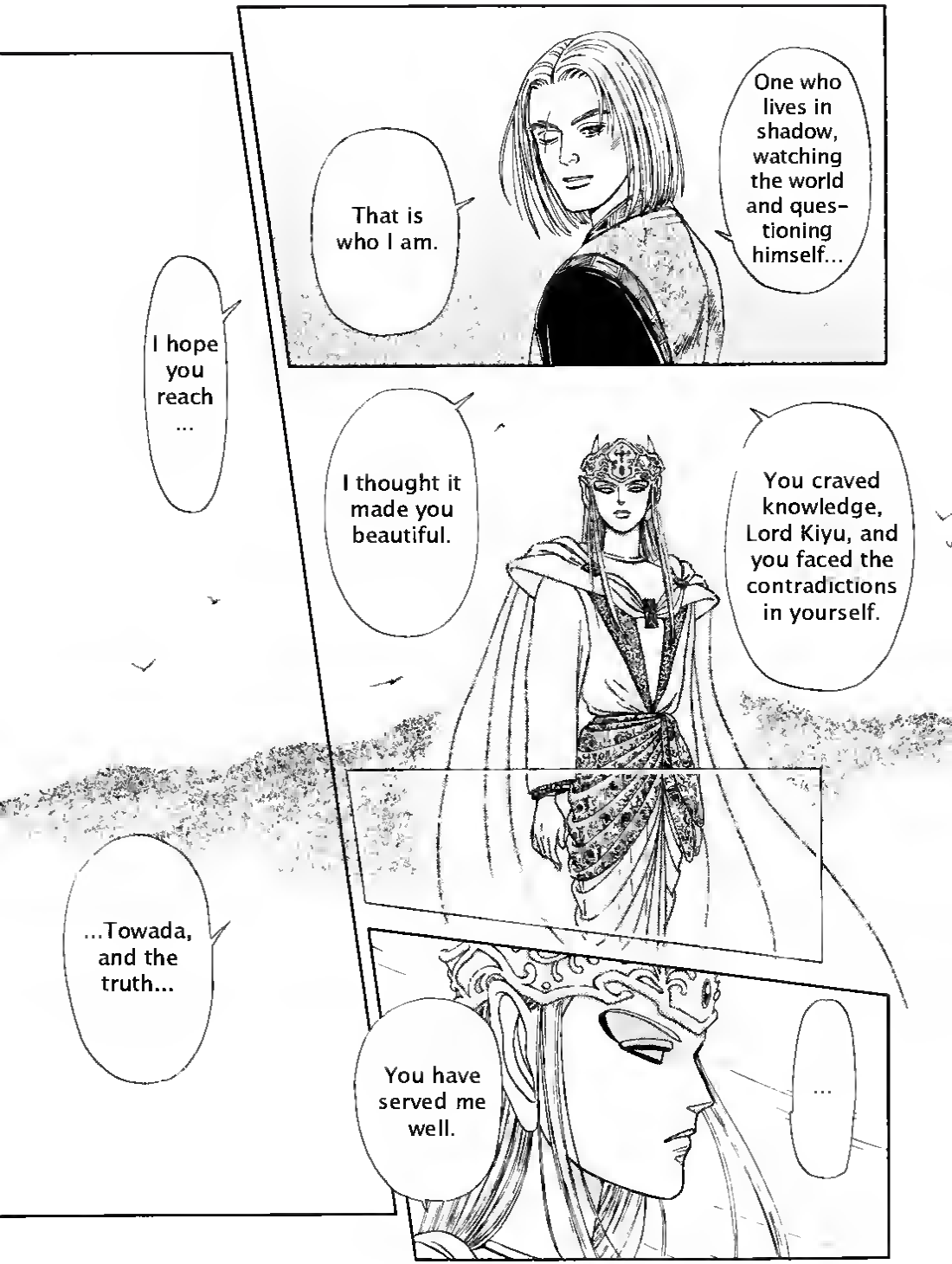

I apologize for my impertinence.
You guessed everything, and you made me lie...
You're a formidable man, aren't you?

Yoko is entangled by fate.
Had she not entered the village and simply left with Takaya, even I would have let her go, and yet...


As I wish ...
As I wish, hm...?

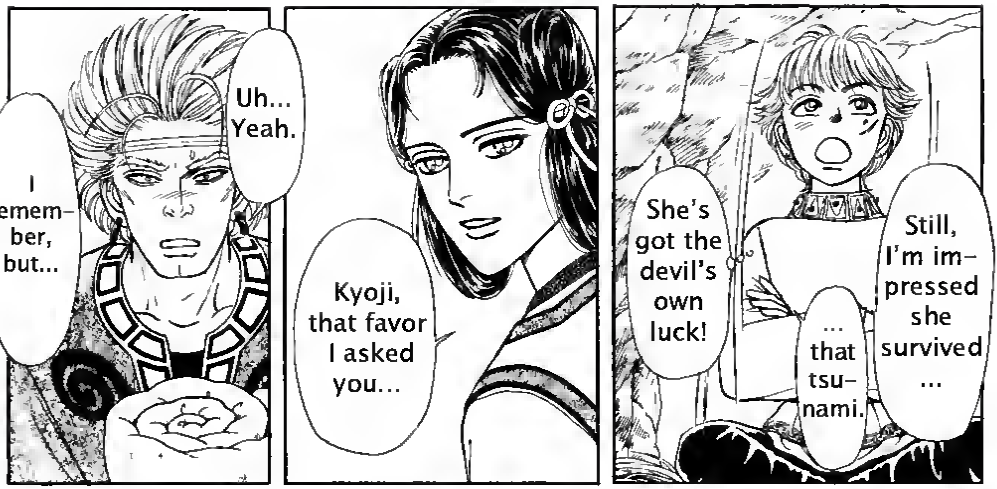

Luckily, the moon is full.
We'll travel through the night, then.
If you enter, you'll only kill each other.
Wait near the forest of illusory mists with the rest of the warriors.
Ge–tsusho ...
Amane is certain to be the god who will bring humanity bliss.
...that I will defeat Amane?
Do you truly hope...

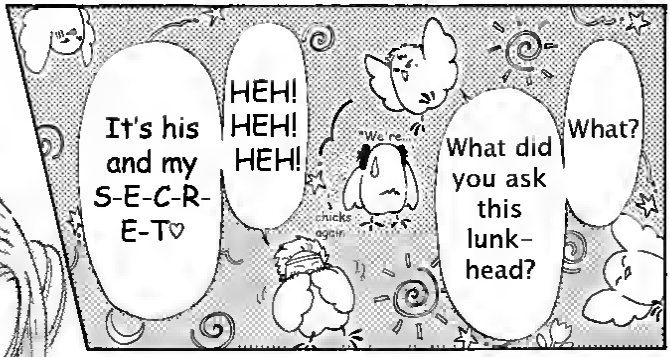
...is to "know."
What they keep wanting until they die...
The first thing humans want when they're born...
If the people of Fuji have abandoned that desire...
If the whole world does so...
...then no doubt I will begin to take pleasure in killing people.

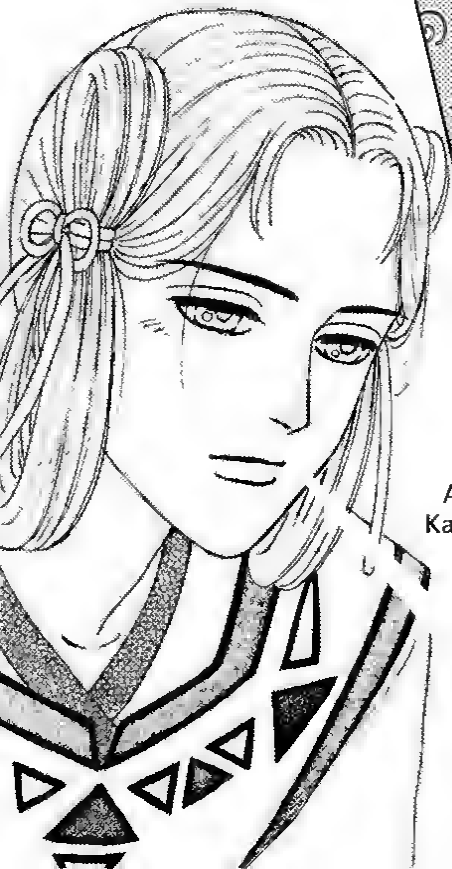

One who lives in shadow, watching the world and questioning himself...
That is who I am.
I hope you reach ...
I thought it made you beautiful.
You craved knowledge, Lord Kiyu, and you faced the contradictions in yourself.
...Towada, and the truth...
You have served me well.
...

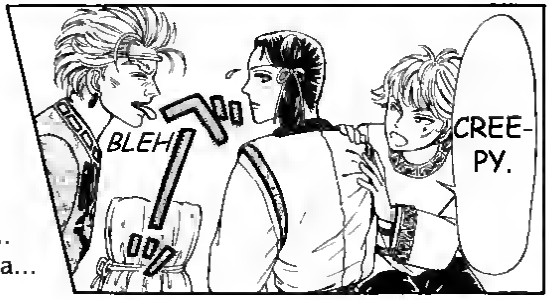
Aohi-ko!
Aohi-ko!
Say, did you hear!?
You don't know yet, do you!?
About tonight's march?
Then you don't know!
Takaya's memory's back, and he told Toko!
Ka-tsura!
They said she's alive!
You win!

Well, I...
Why are you crying?
So?
It's like he's a different person...
Ever since he found out Katsura's alive...
He's just incredibly cool somehow.
He looks really cool, you know?
What's that supposed to mean!?
That's real creepy. You're actually cute today.
Hrrm mmm!
I'm seriously mad.
It burns me up!


I remember, but...
Uh... Yeah.
Kyoji, that favor I asked you...
She's got the devil's own luck!
... that tsunami.
Still, I'm impressed she survived ...

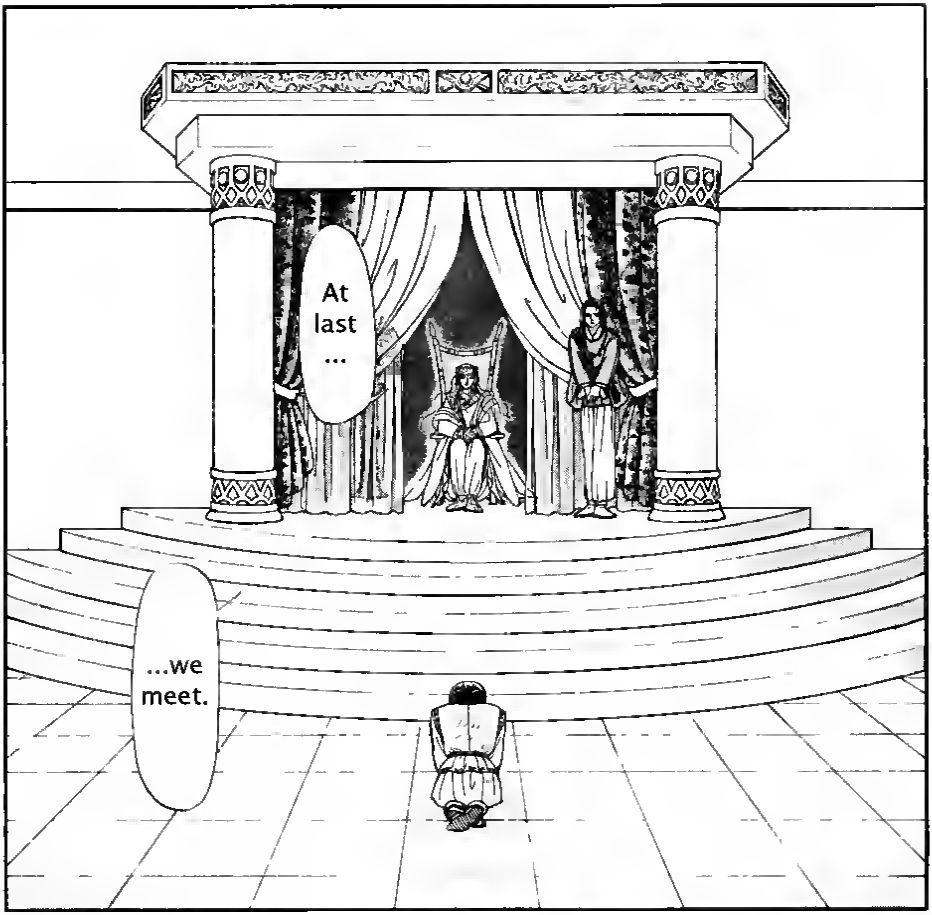


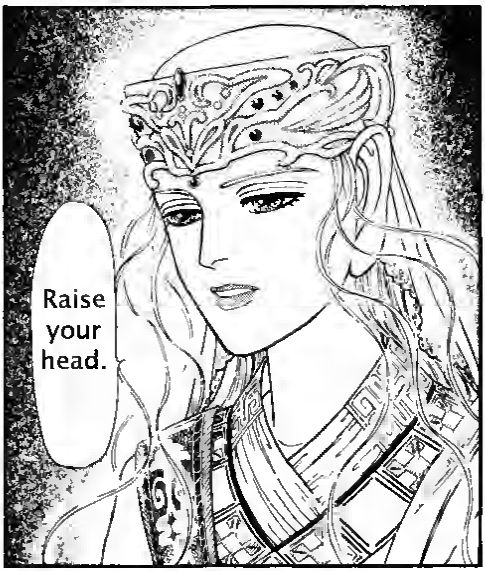




And... Katsura...

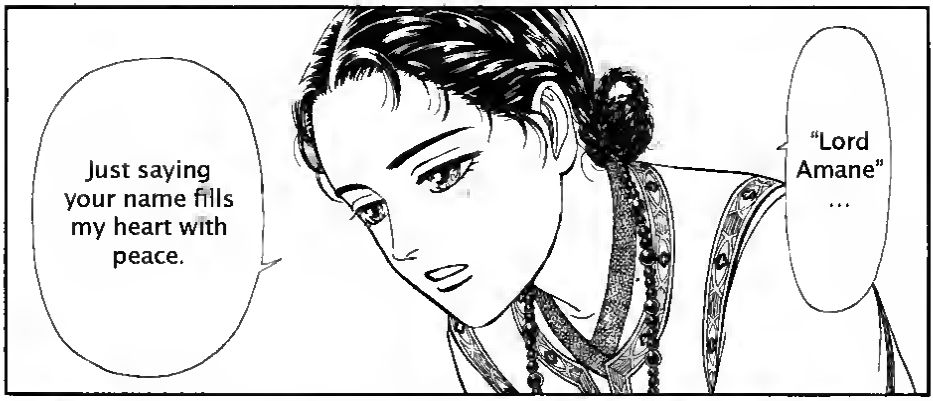
So you met Takaya, Toko...


At last ...
...we meet.


Raise your head.

Then have you fled from Kiyu to come here?
No...
Do you still serve Kiyu?
I've heard all about you from Takaya.
No...
...
Please ...
Please let me leave with Takaya.
Toko ...
Lord Amane is trying to help you.

You don't wish for the world of the demon gods, do you?
Why don't you wish to live here, in the village?

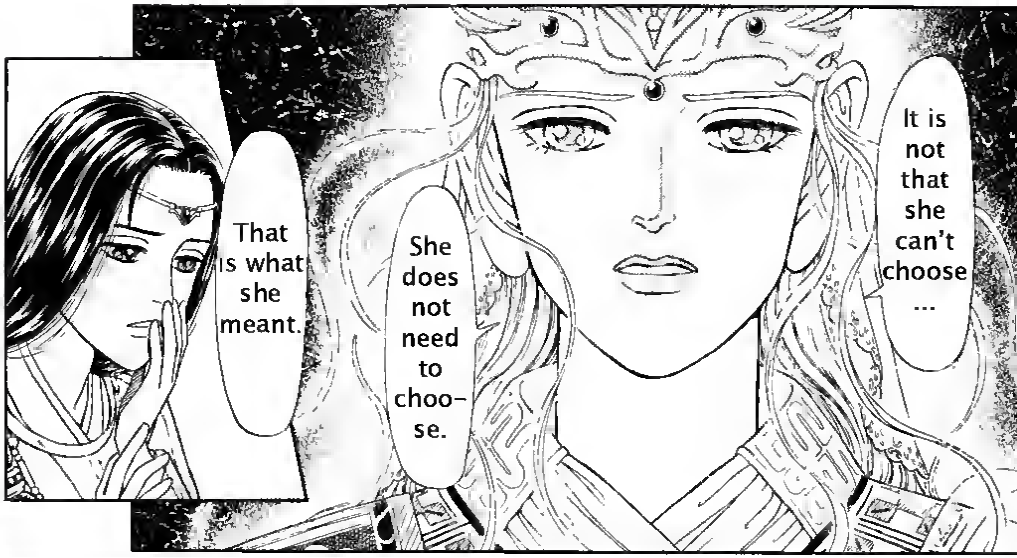

Just saying your name fills my heart with peace.
"Lord Amane" ...

You mean Yoko.

But... I can't live here.
Living here would mean burying half my soul.

We are no longer "we." Only "I."
I have accepted that I am myself...
Both the hope and despair of being myself, and so...
I can't choose either world.
Demi-gods ...
...or demon gods.

GASP
Lord Amane!

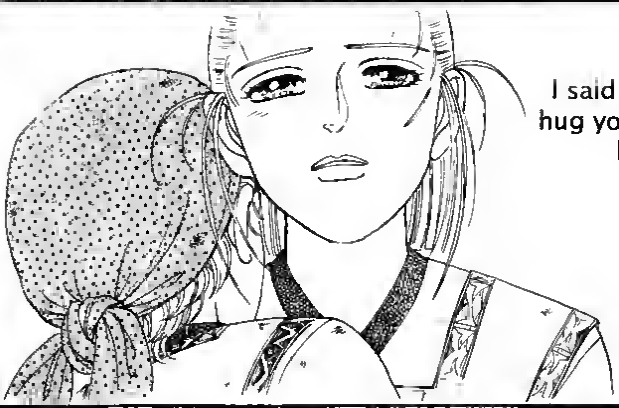

That is what she meant.
She does not need to choo-se.
It is not that she can't choose ...

... known fear until now.
I have never ...

I don't need it...

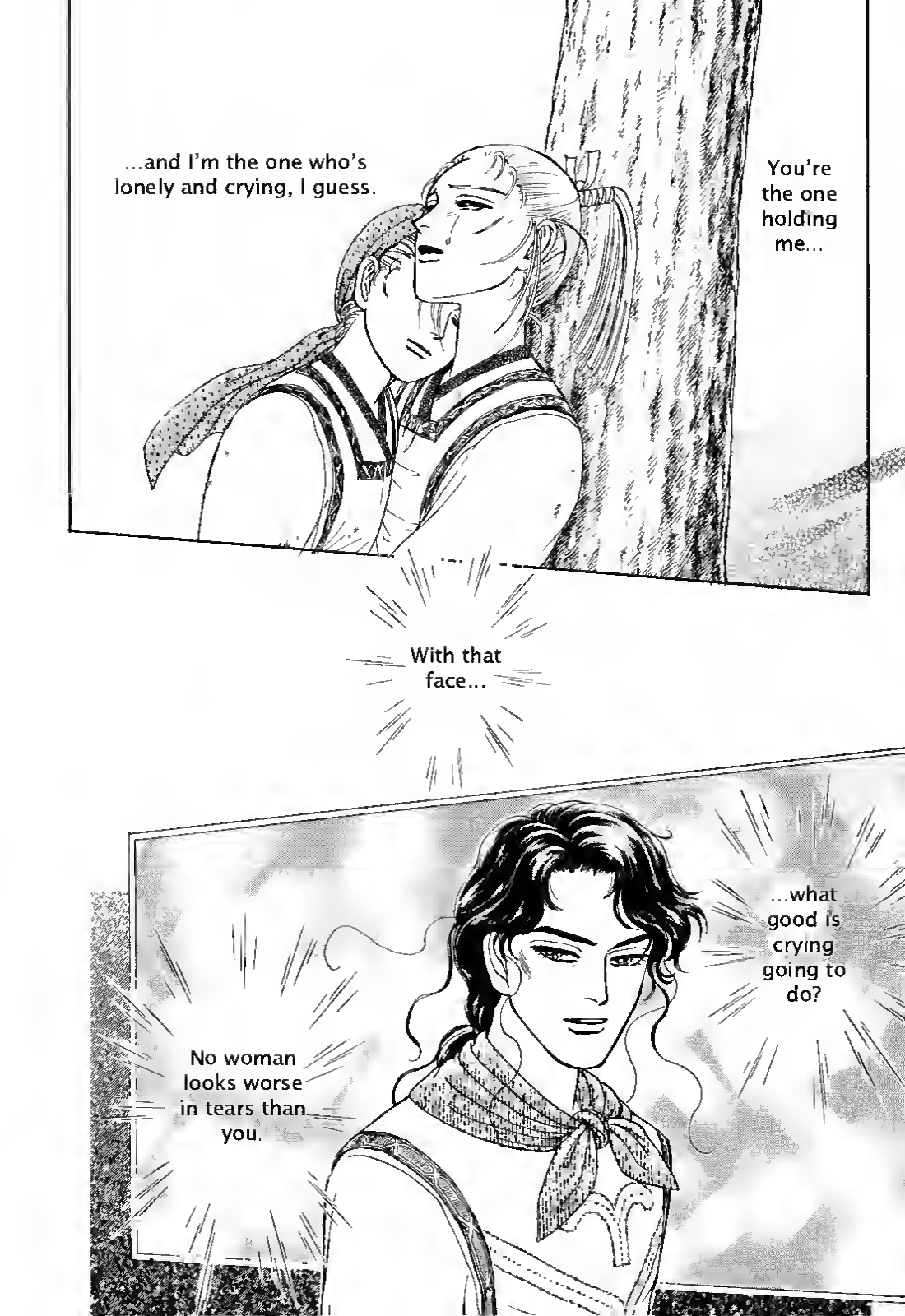
I also felt that Toko was frightening.
But it's odd...
At the same time...
...I also feel a strange peace.
And that is terrifying in its own way...

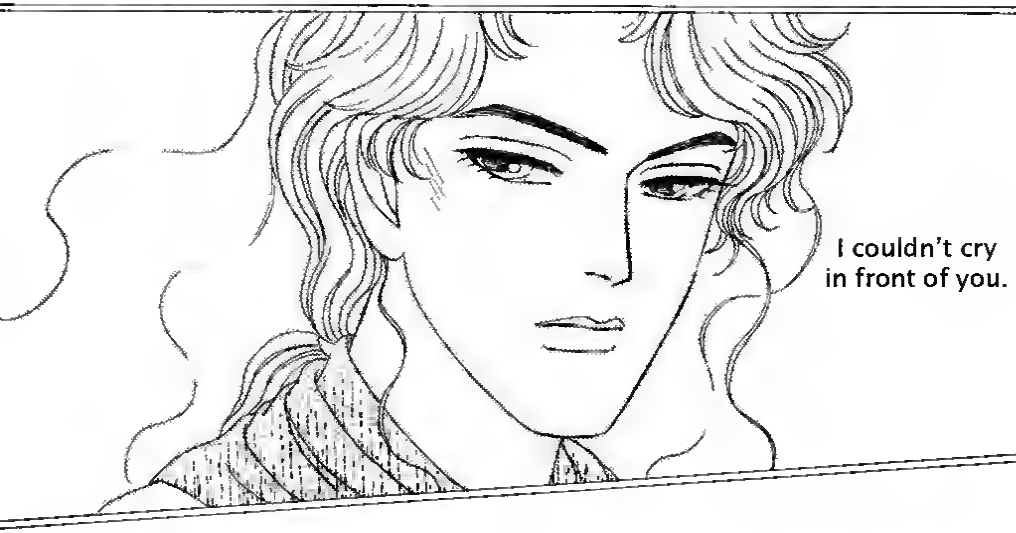
Kai...
Kai...


You don't mind, do you...? Let's stay this way, just a bit longer.
I said I wouldn't hug you anymore, but...

I don't want you crying because you're lonely.

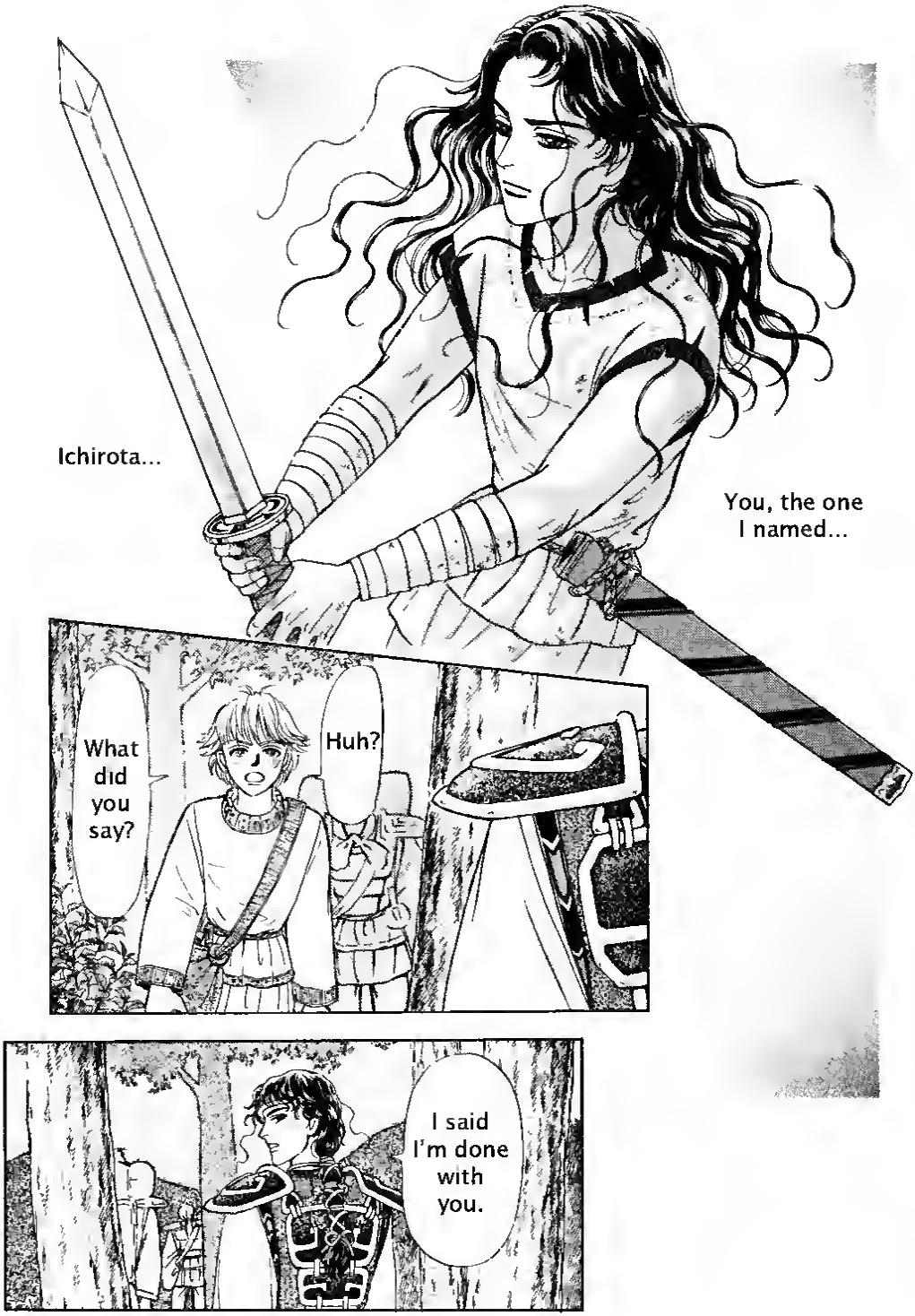
I'll be grown up before you know it! Just you wait!
I'll get bigger and stronger than you, and then...
And then...
When children in my village die, we call them Towan Kamuchi, "Eternal Children," and everyone carves their name on their hearts.
Kai... You're an Eternal Child...
Pretty word, isn't it?
And then...
And then...
And then...


...and I'm the one who's lonely and crying, I guess.
You're the one holding me...
With that face...
No woman looks worse in tears than you.
...what good is crying going to do?

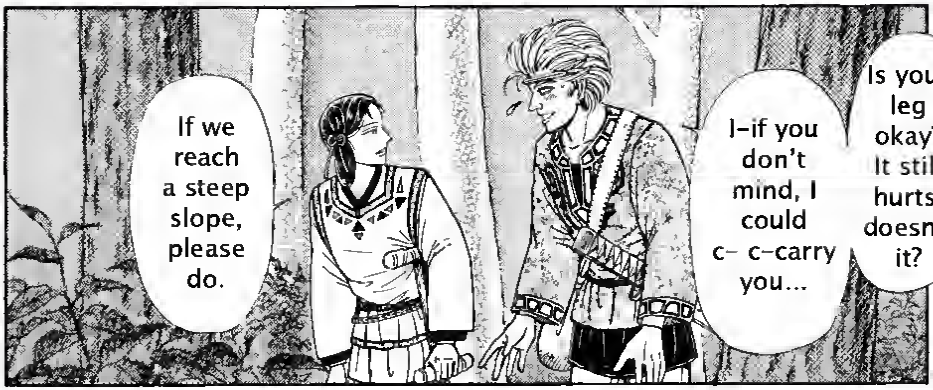


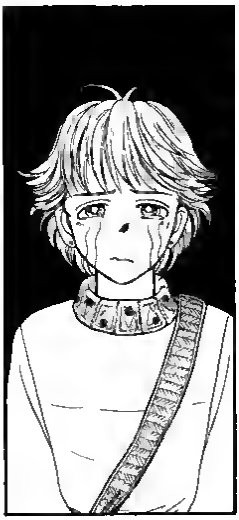
I couldn't cry in front
of anyone...

I doubt you'll cry in
front of anyone as long
as you live.


Ichirota...
You, the one I named...
What did you say?
Huh?
I said I'm done with you.

Liar!
What!?
I don't have a scratch on me yet!
You said you'd slice me to ribbons and then throw me away!
I'll tear you to pieces!
Get lost!
HEH HEH
Hey, we could pick you up.


If we reach a steep slope, please do.
I-if you don't mind, I could c- c-carry you...
Is your leg okay? It still hurts, doesn't it?



What's wrong?
HUH?
WHA?

So you shove the heavy packs off on some-body else and carry the nice stuff yourself?
I swear!

GAH HA HA HA
がっはっはっ
Don't laugh!

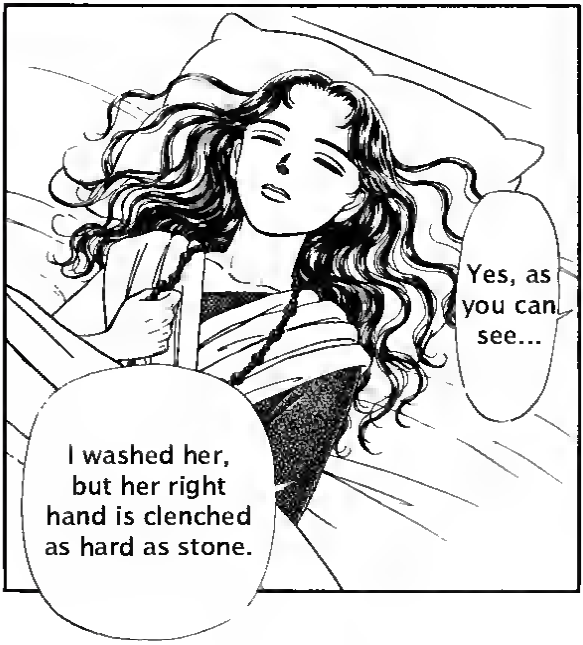
He threw me away...

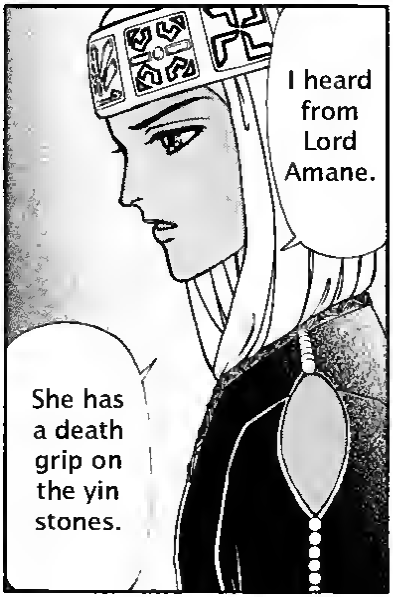
You think maybe it's... that?
"That"?
He's never that nice to me.
The forest of illusory mists is dangerous. He probably wanted to make sure you stayed away.
He keeps it wrapped up.
He says it doesn't hurt, but he doesn't want people to see it.
The scar on his right hand's been red and swollen since then...
Remember the village we hit?
...and that it would never go away...
He said he gave it to Nachi as proof he believed in him...
That's a cursed wound from his chief, the guy that killed himself.

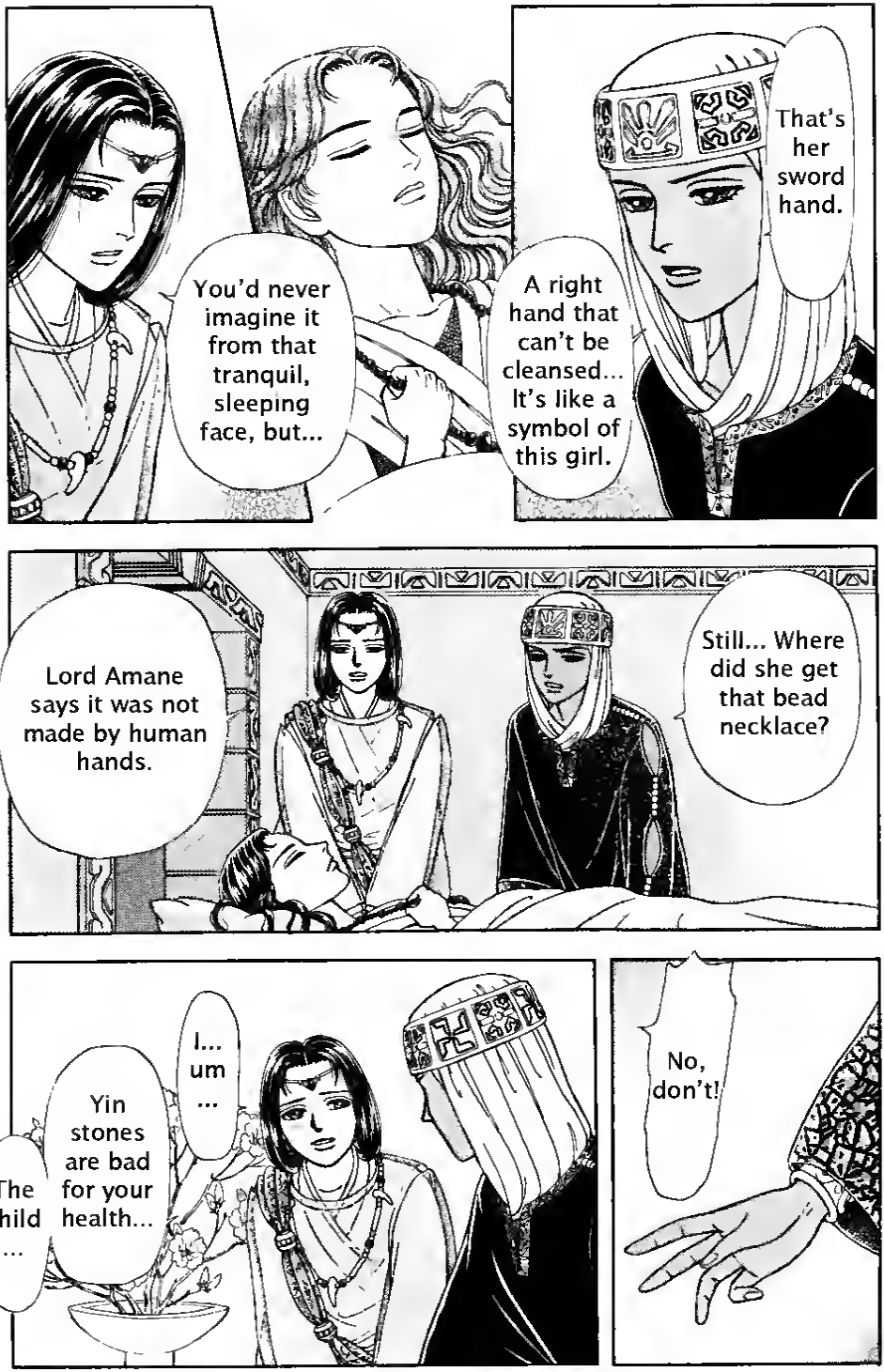
Nachi looked up to him as well.
He wasn't the type to curse people.
Yoshikage entrusted Ichirota's name to that wound...
Or rather, Ichirota's heart.
It's Nachi who's keeping that wound from healing...
I'm kinda jealous!
It looks like he really understands you, too.
Y'know...
You really do understand him.

Ahhh!
If I'm jealous of you, I'm no better than Hibiki.
Maybe that's why I understand him.
I bet Hibiki's getting crazier by the minute.
They say everyone goes funny in this forest.
He won't go crazy.
Not until he kills Nachi...

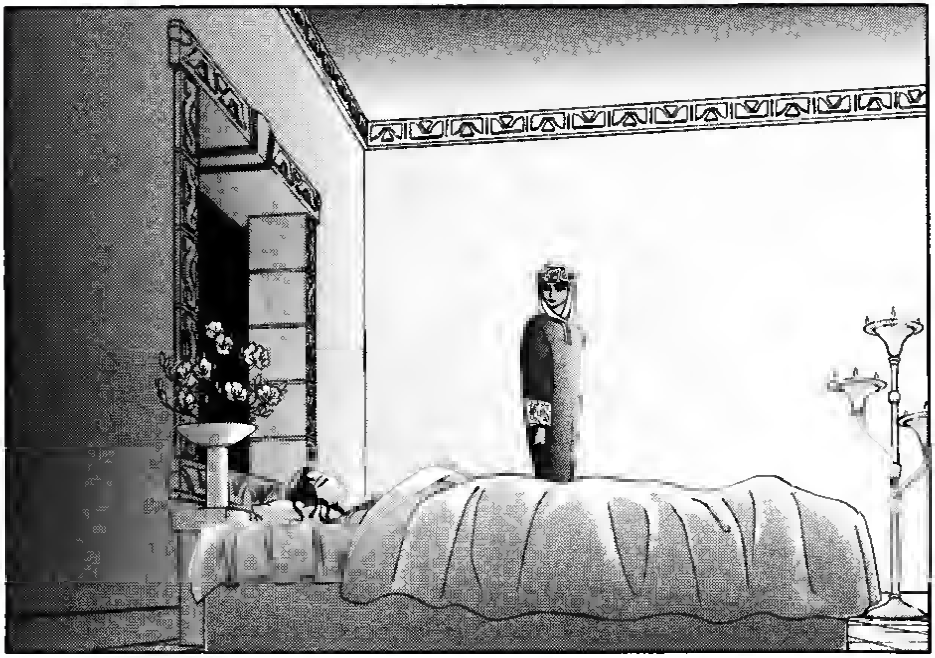
Lord Kusuto ...

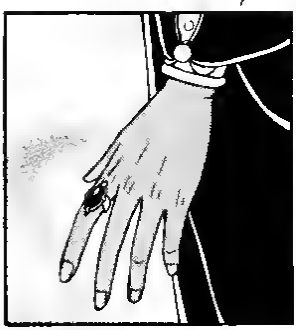

Yes, as you can see...
I washed her, but her right hand is clenched as hard as stone.

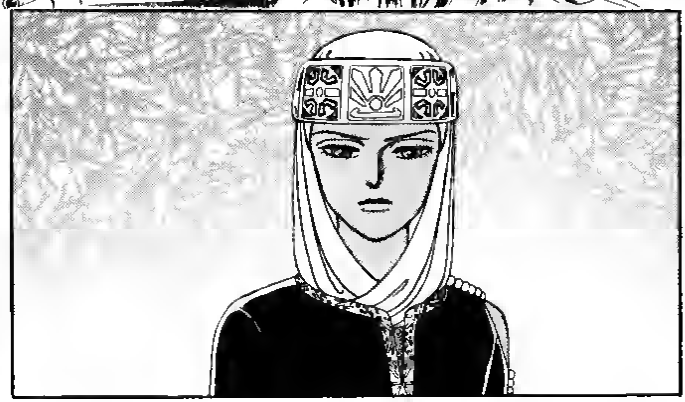

I heard from Lord Amane.
She has a death grip on the yin stones.

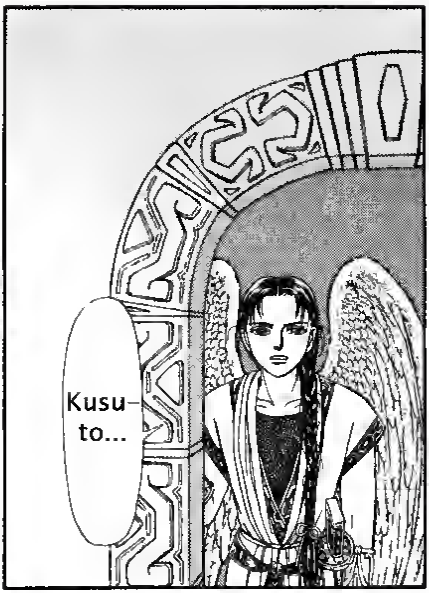

That's her sword hand.
A right hand that can't be cleansed... It's like a symbol of this girl.
You'd never imagine it from that tranquil, sleeping face, but...
Still... Where did she get that bead necklace?
Lord Amane says it was not made by human hands.
No, don't!
I... um ...
Yin stones are bad for your health...
The child ...

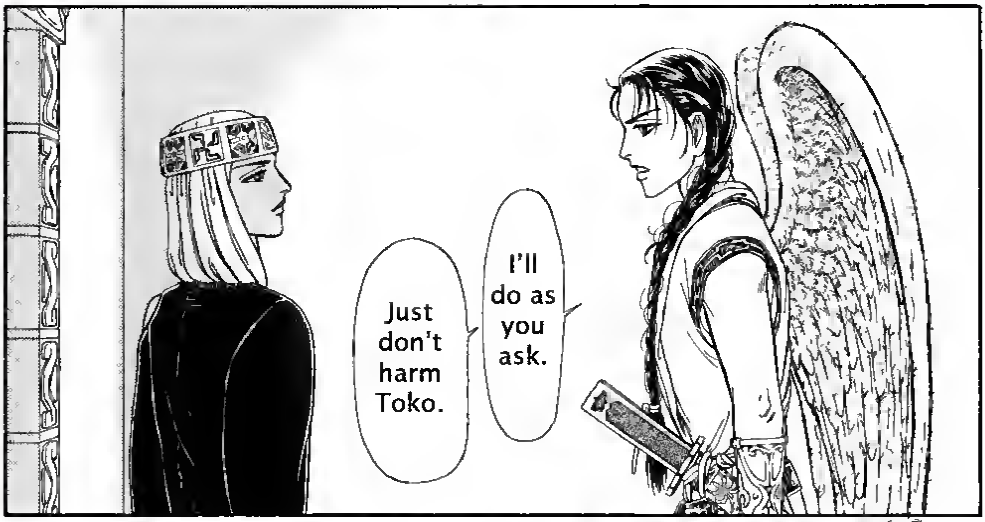
Of course.
Leave us for a while.
I've been impertinent. I'm sorry.
It's fine.
What of Lord Takaya?
And... um...
After all, this girl is here...
He'll return soon.



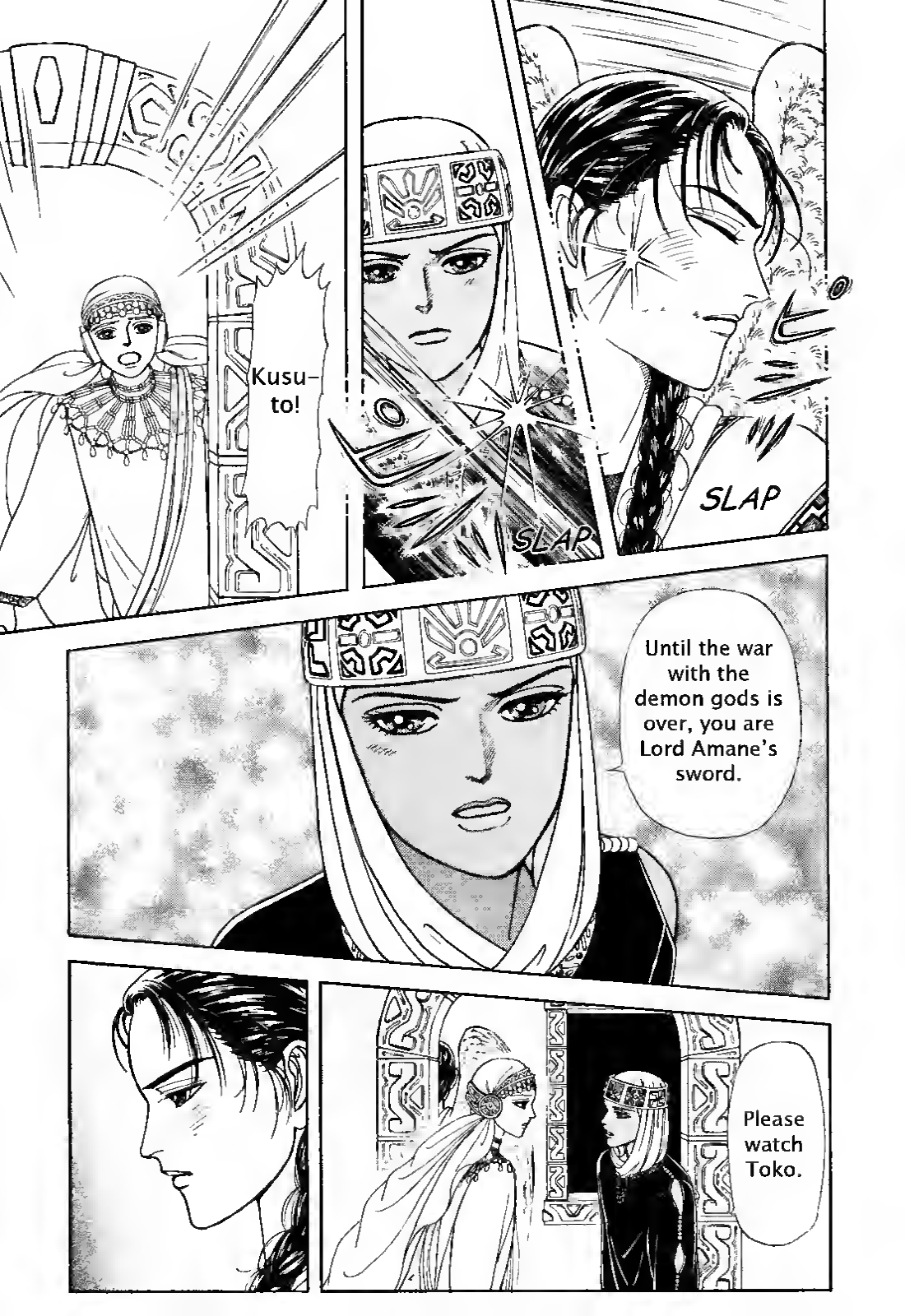





Kusu-
to...


Just don't harm Toko.
I'll do as you ask.

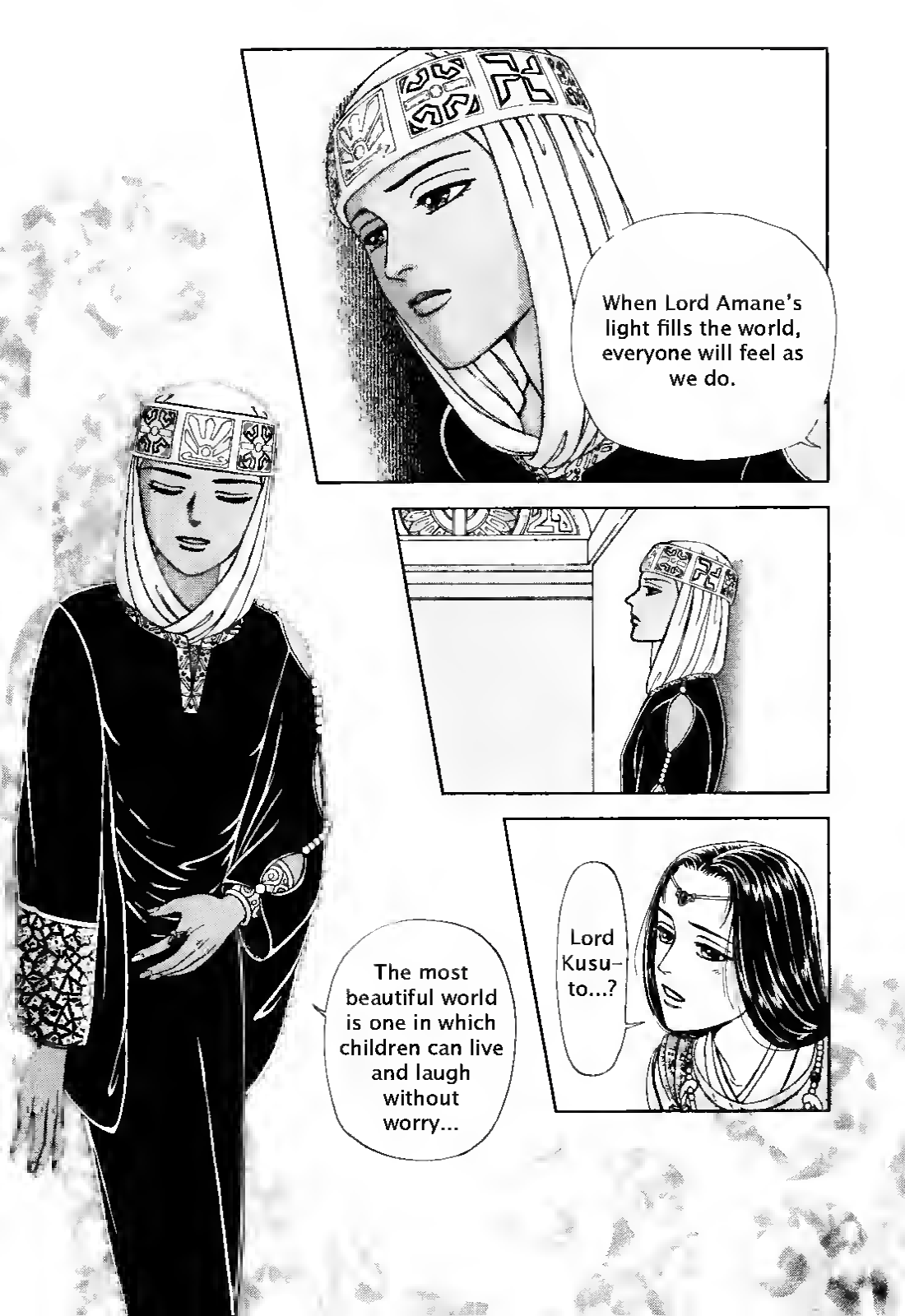
SLAP


Kusu-
to!
SLAP
SLAP
Until the war with the demon gods is over, you are Lord Amane's sword.
Please watch Toko.

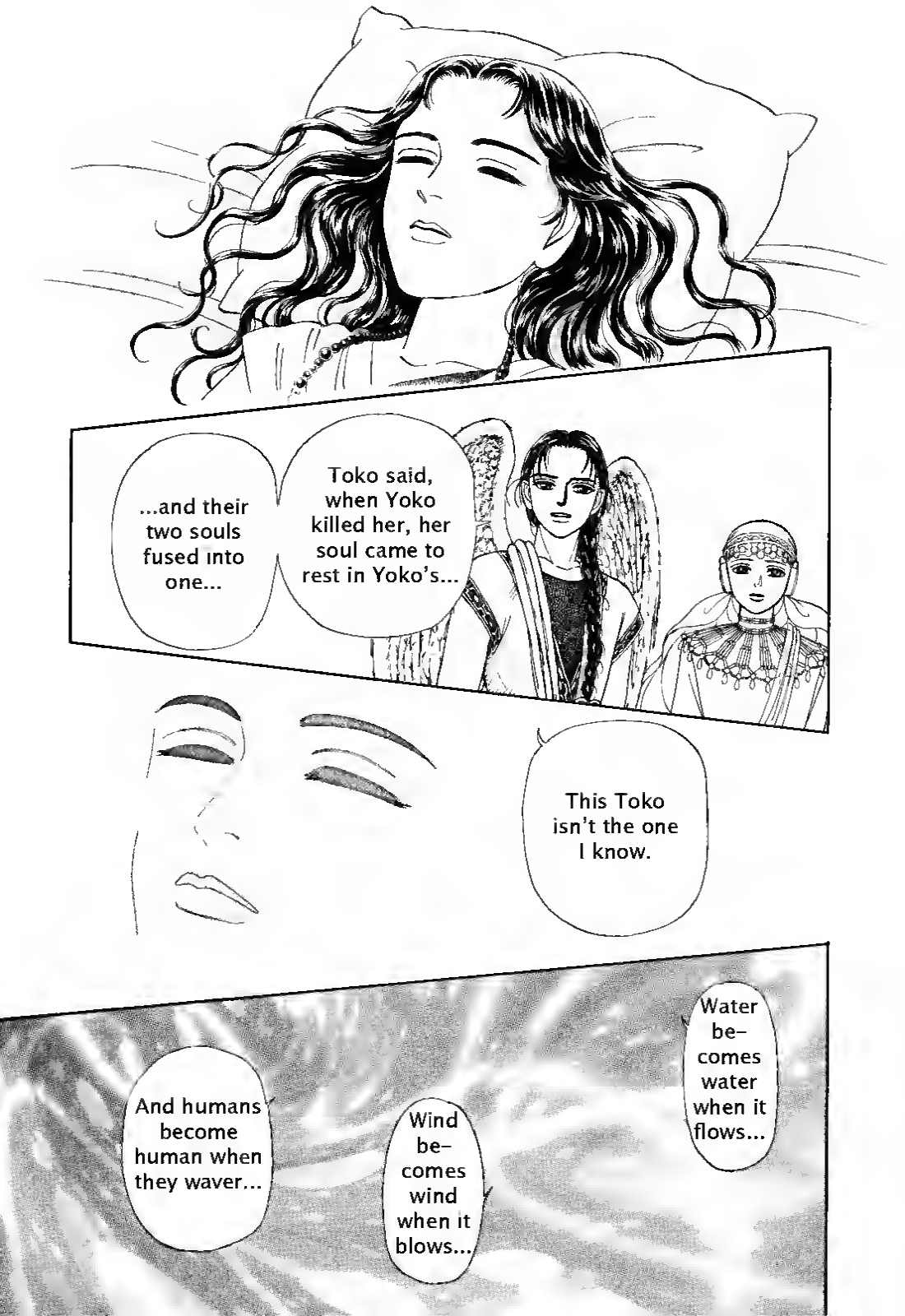
Let me heal it for you.
You're blee-ding...
Taka-ya...
It's fine.
The wound Kusuto suffered because of me...
...is probably deeper than words can say...
Both the path I want and the feelings I harbor changed...
It wasn't your fault.
That makes it easier.
Let it be my fault.

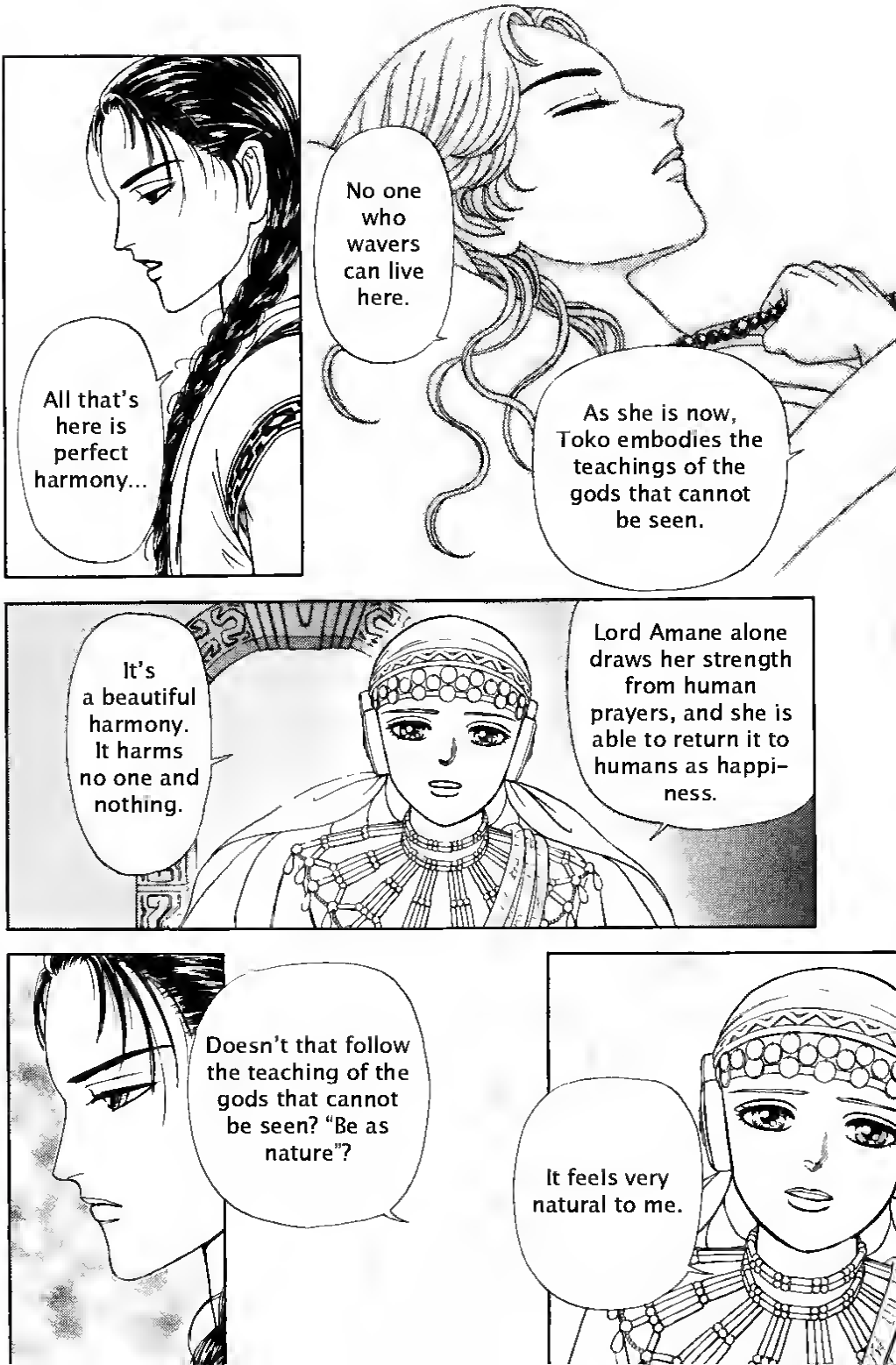
Even more alone than before...
And now Kusuto's... alone again.
Your kindness may end up separating you and Toko again.
I don't think Kusuto will let you go so easily.
Taka-ya...
Kusuto needs it.
Hold Kusuto.
Please ...

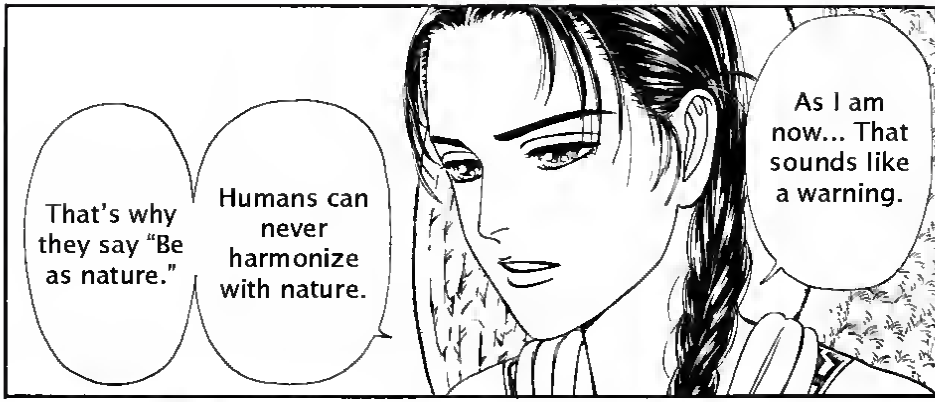
Lord Kusu-to...
Are you feeling ill?
You see... I...
I'm wor-ried...
You mustn't push yourself.
Do you...
...like this vil-lage?
Of course I do.
I'm truly happy to be able to live here like this. We all are.

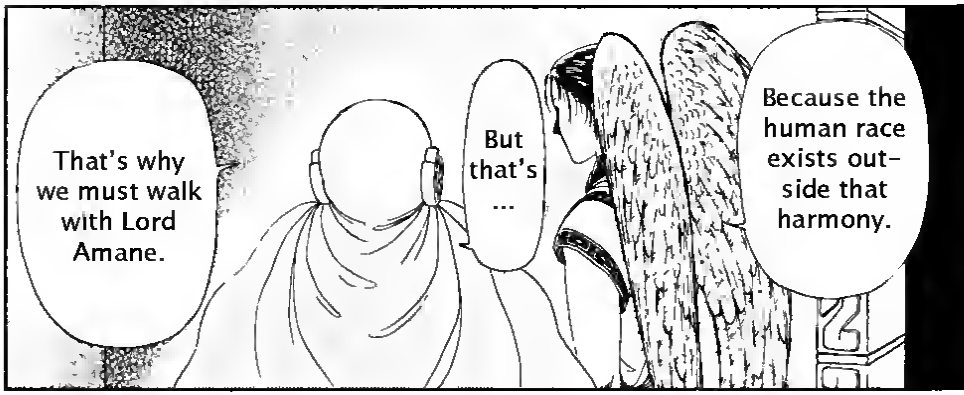

When Lord Amane's light fills the world, everyone will feel as we do.
Lord Kusu-to...?
The most beautiful world is one in which children can live and laugh without worry...

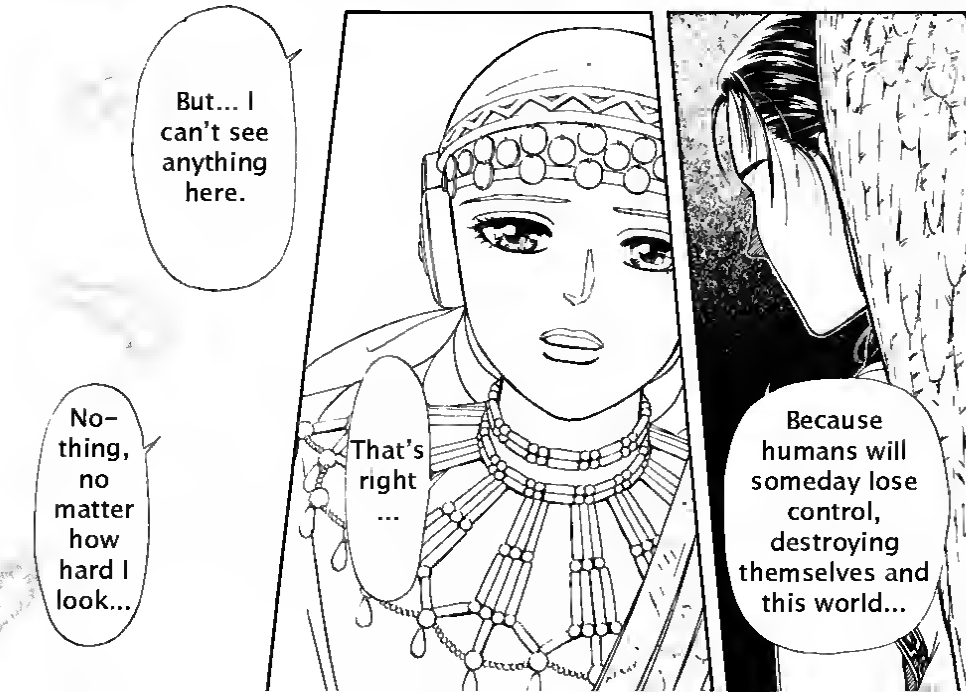
Toko said...
...she couldn't choose, didn't she.
I'm not wrong.
In order to make that world a reality...
I'll do anything...
Become anyone...
...

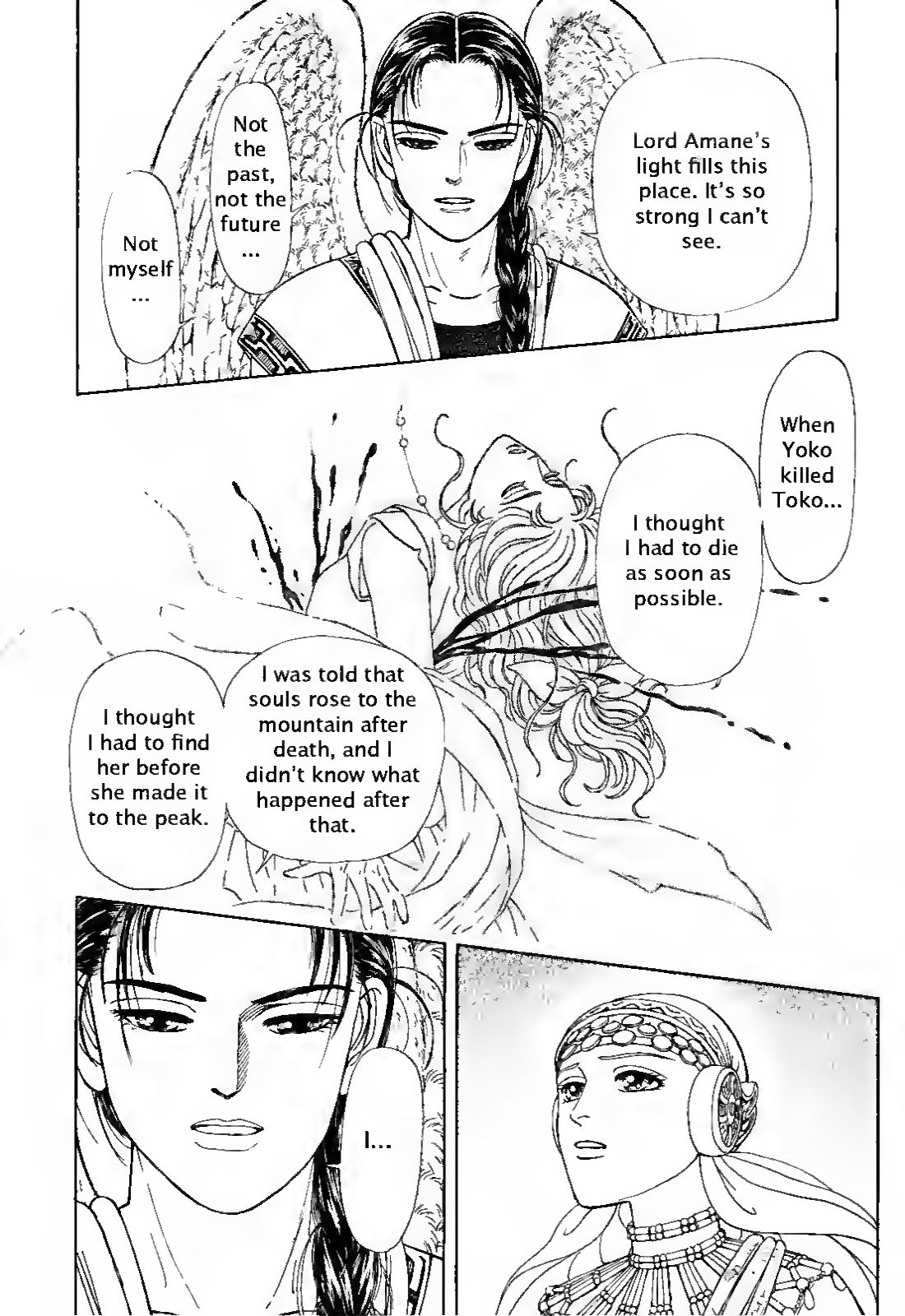

...and their two souls fused into one...
Toko said, when Yoko killed her, her soul came to rest in Yoko's...
This Toko isn't the one I know.
Water becomes water when it flows...
Wind becomes wind when it blows...
And humans become human when they waver...

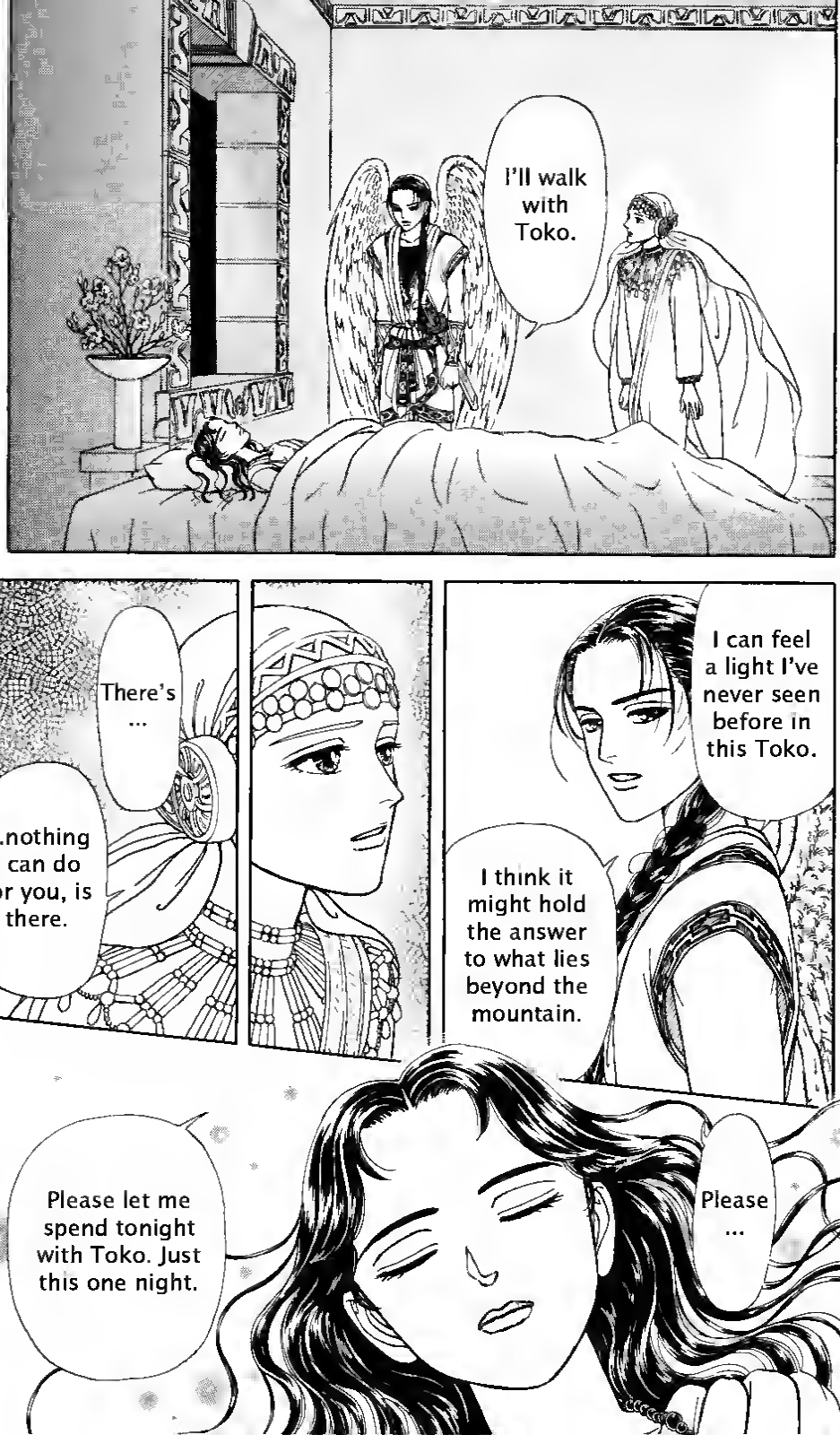

All that's here is perfect harmony...
No one who wavers can live here.
As she is now, Toko embodies the teachings of the gods that cannot be seen.
It's a beautiful harmony. It harms no one and nothing.
Lord Amane alone draws her strength from human prayers, and she is able to return it to humans as happiness.
Doesn't that follow the teaching of the gods that cannot be seen? "Be as nature"?
It feels very natural to me.

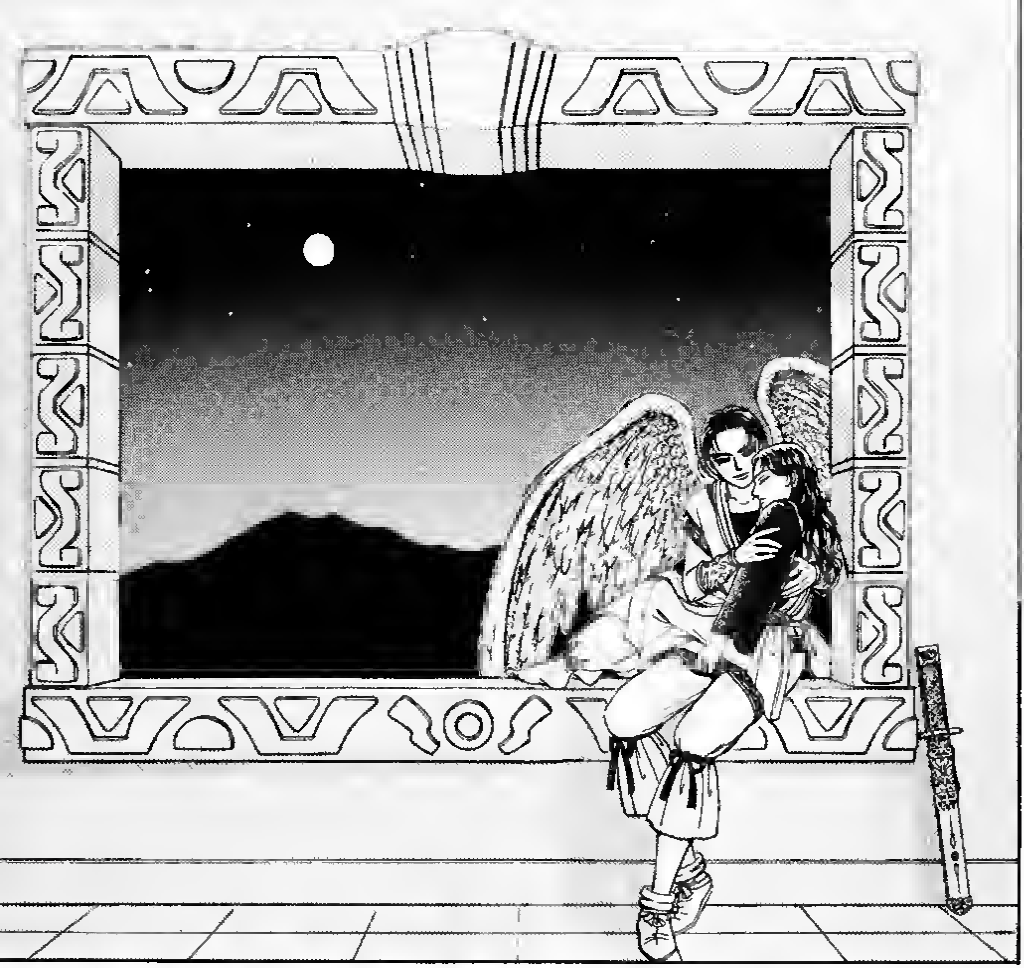

That's why they say "Be as nature."
Humans can never harmonize with nature.
As I am now... That sounds like a warning.

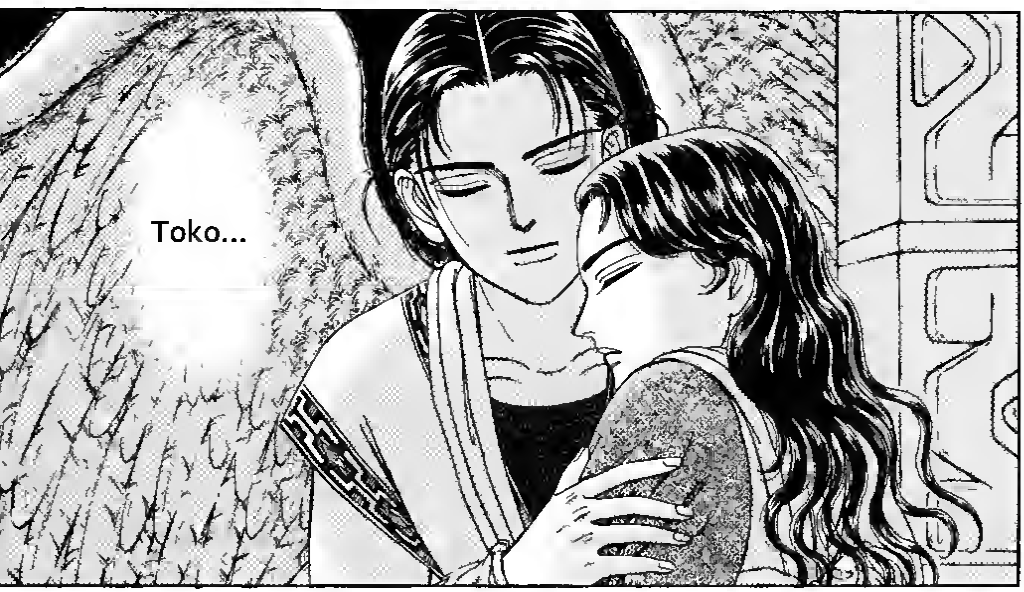

That's why we must walk with Lord Amane.
But that's ...
Because the human race exists outside that harmony.


But... I can't see anything here.
No-thing, no matter how hard I look...
That's right ...
Because humans will someday lose control, destroying themselves and this world...


Lord Amane's light fills this place. It's so strong I can't see.
Not the past, not the future ...
Not myself ...
When Yoko killed Toko...
I thought I had to die as soon as possible.
I was told that souls rose to the mountain after death, and I didn't know what happened after that.
I thought I had to find her before she made it to the peak.
I...


I'll walk with Toko.
There's ...
...nothing I can do for you, is there.
I can feel a light I've never seen before in this Toko.
I think it might hold the answer to what lies beyond the mountain.
Please ...
Please let me spend tonight with Toko. Just this one night.




Toko...

Toko...
Toko ...
Let's stop ...

... being sib- lings.

Take care of Toko for me!
Taka-ya!

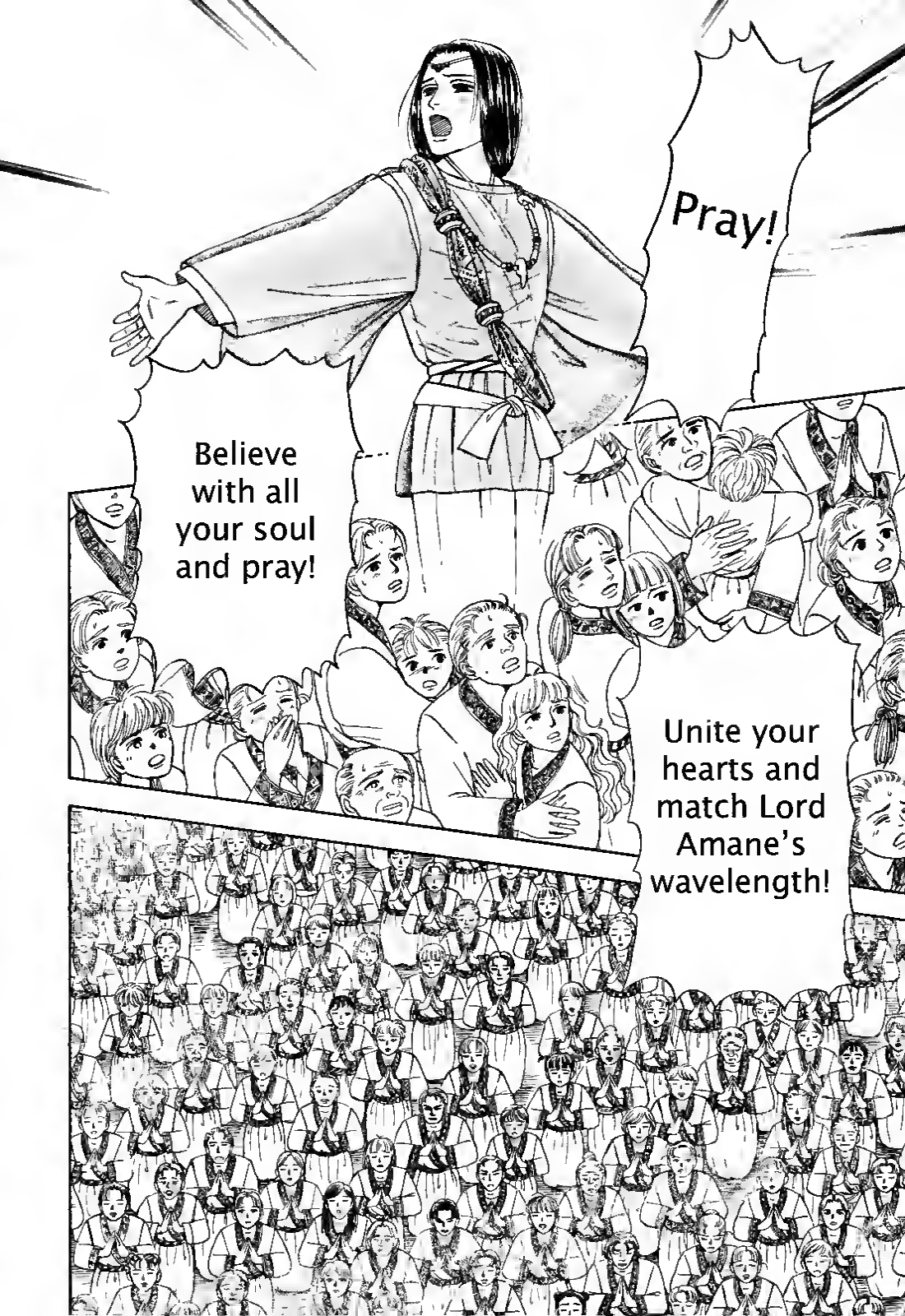
The demon gods and their warriors...! They're here...
L... Lord Kusuto!
Takaya has gone outside the barrier with the demigods to intercept them.
Don't panic!
Wh... What should I do...?
I'll spread the mists.
Gather the villagers at the temple, unite your hearts and offer prayers to Lord Amane.

I won't let a single warrior enter this village.

What's up?
No...
Aohi-ko?
Not good ...
This mist ...
Cap-tain ...
Na-chi!
They're illusory mists! Retreat!
It's too late...
Fall back!

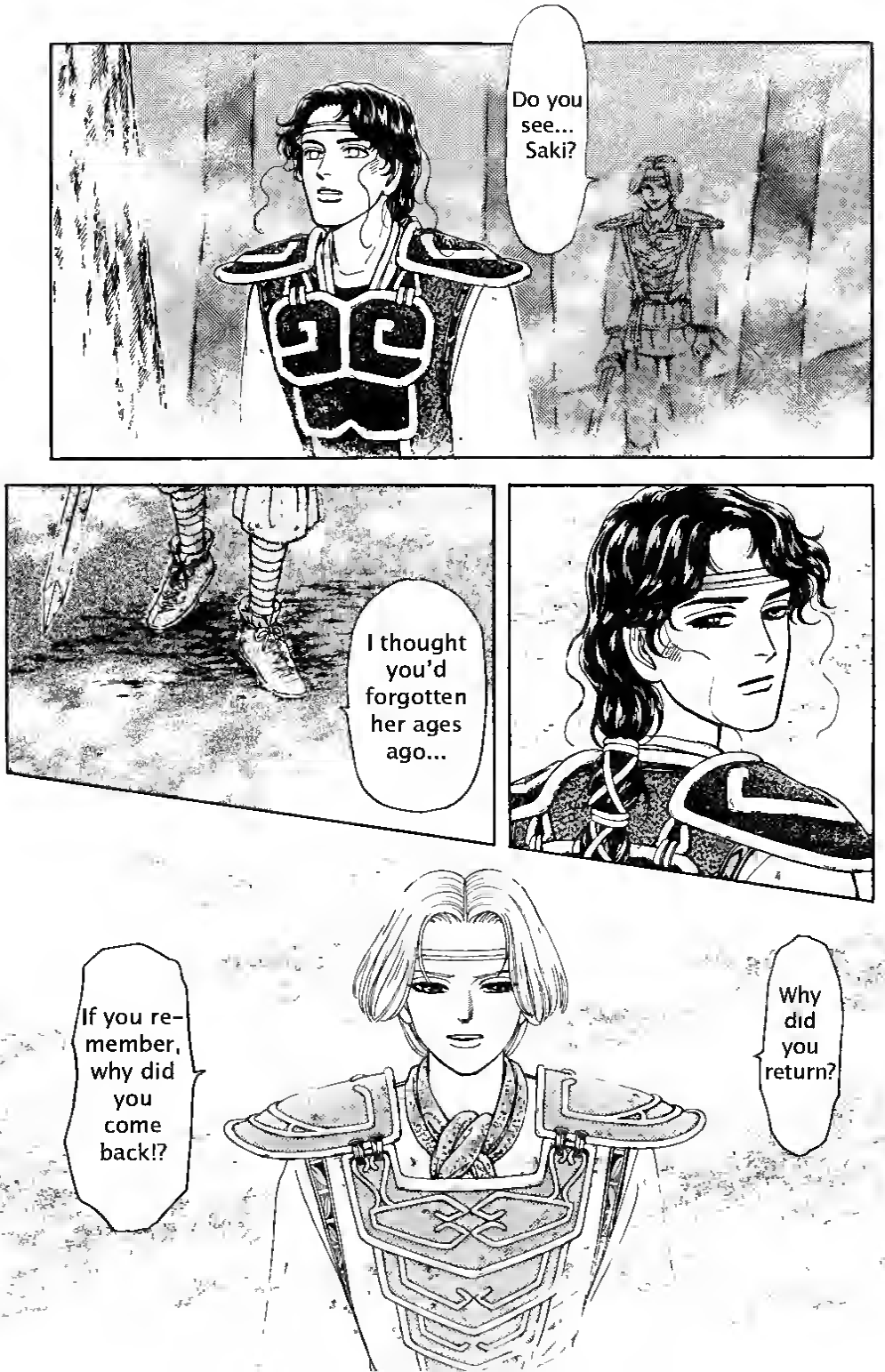
Scat-
ter!
Scat-
ter!
Don't draw your swords! You'll kill each other!
Stick close to me!
Aohi-ko!
They'll kill each other.

SKASH
Come!

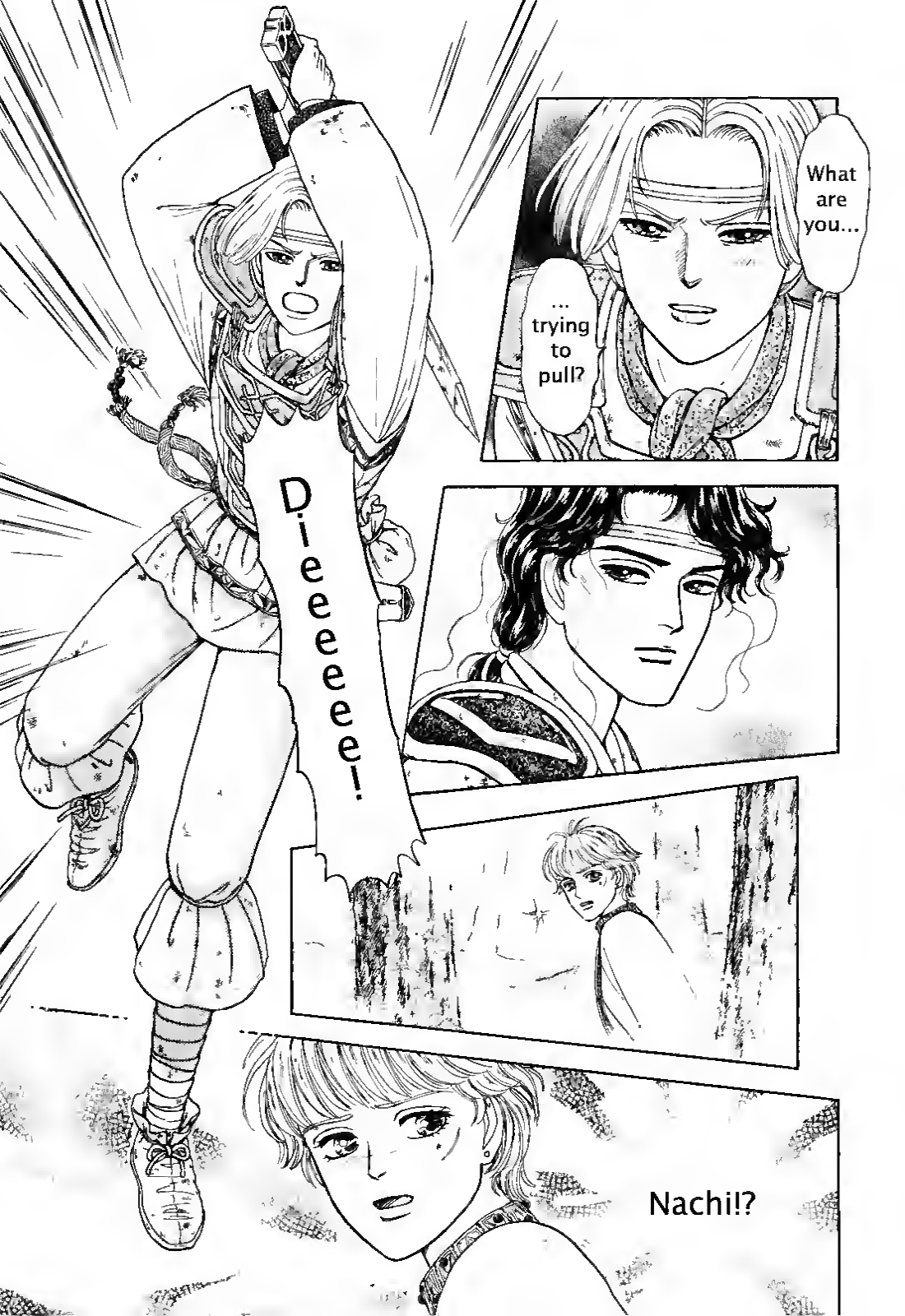

Pray!
Believe with all your soul and pray!
Unite your hearts and match Lord Amane's wavelength!

Where are you!? Aohi-ko!
Aohi-ko!
RAAAAH!
Blast this mist!
Arrr gh!
SLASH
You're all crazy!
GKH

Saki...?
Ka-
tsura
...


Do you see... Saki?
I thought you'd forgotten her ages ago...
If you remember, why did you come back!?
Why did you return?

SHING
It means Saki died for nothing...
Aohi-ko!
Aohi-ko!
Aohi-ko!


What are you...
... trying to pull?
Dieeeeee!
Nachi!?

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
Na-
chi!
Na-
chi!
CREAK
CLASH
CLANG
Na-
chi!

Hibiki, stop!
You know Nachi can't kill you!
Stop it!

Kimi-
ka!
WHIRR
WHIRR

KYAA!
GWAH!
Ichiro-ta!

Nachi!
Ah...
Ao...
hiko...
Over
here...
...

Don't move!
If we just stop the blee-ding...
Na-chi!
I'm ...
... over here!
He's holding back the demon headband's reaction through sheer willpower...
He's...
...me ...
RIP
What strength...

...me...
Kill...
NOOOOOOOOO!
While ...
...I'm... still myself...

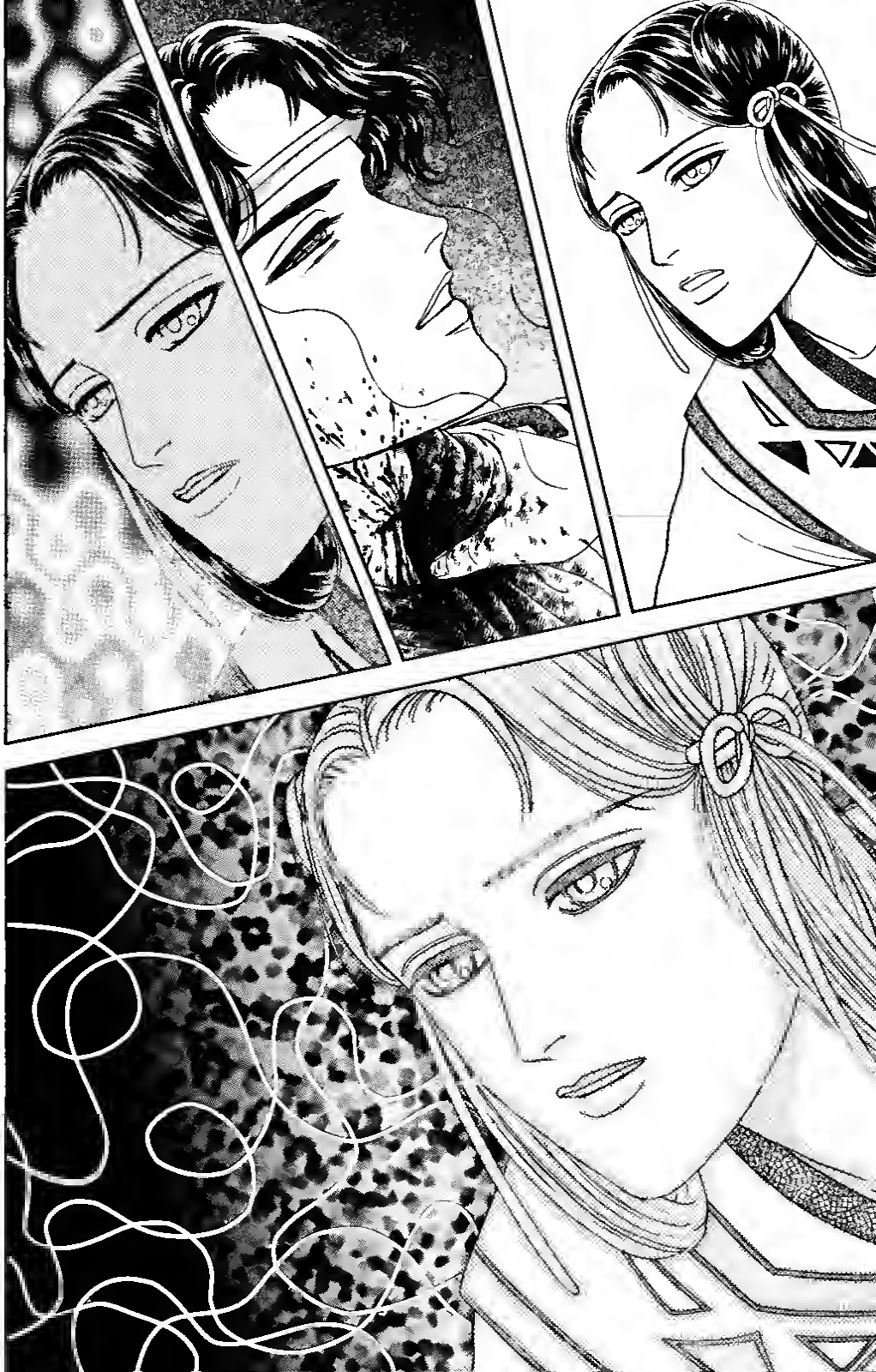
Kill me!
With those hands!
Y-you ignored everything else I said!
Kill Ichi-rota!
Kill me!

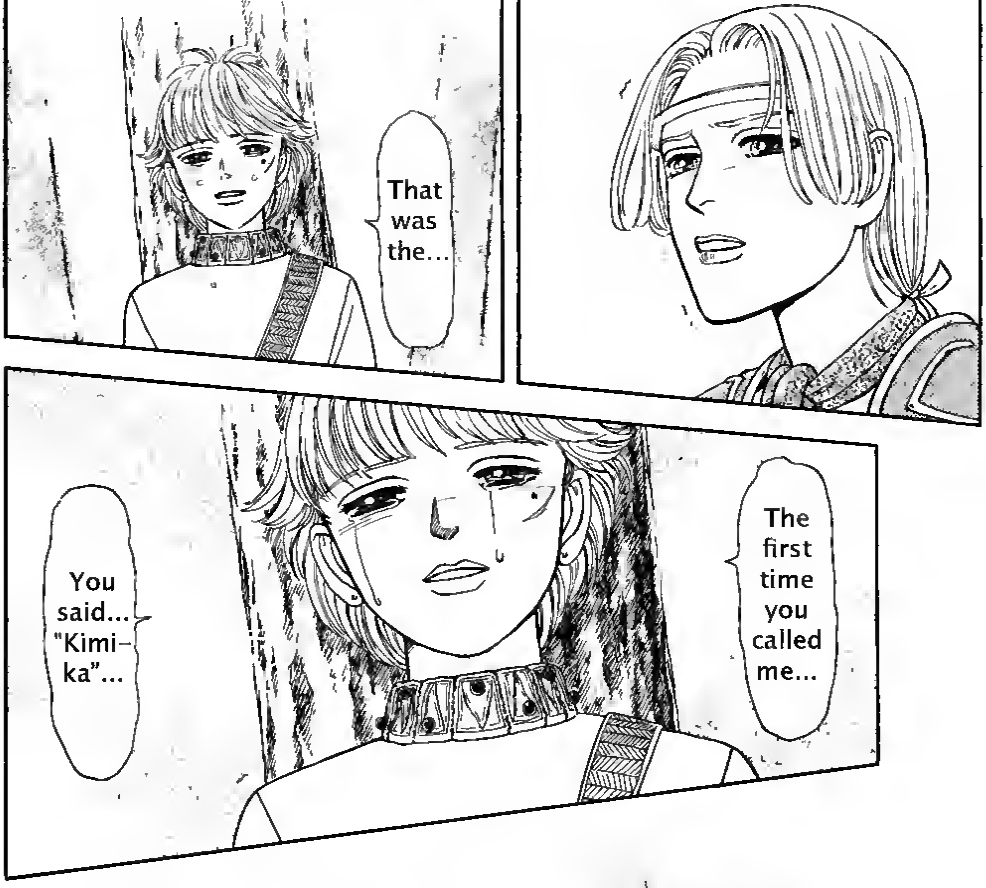
It will... destroy you...
You won't ...
...be able to take it...
I know ...
... you'll do it ...
Because it's what... I want...
Ah... Ah...

Go mad!
Suf-fer!
Wander through chaos!
In a cage of mad-ness ...
Lea-ving Ka-tsura ...
I won't let you go any-where.
I'll bind you to this realm!

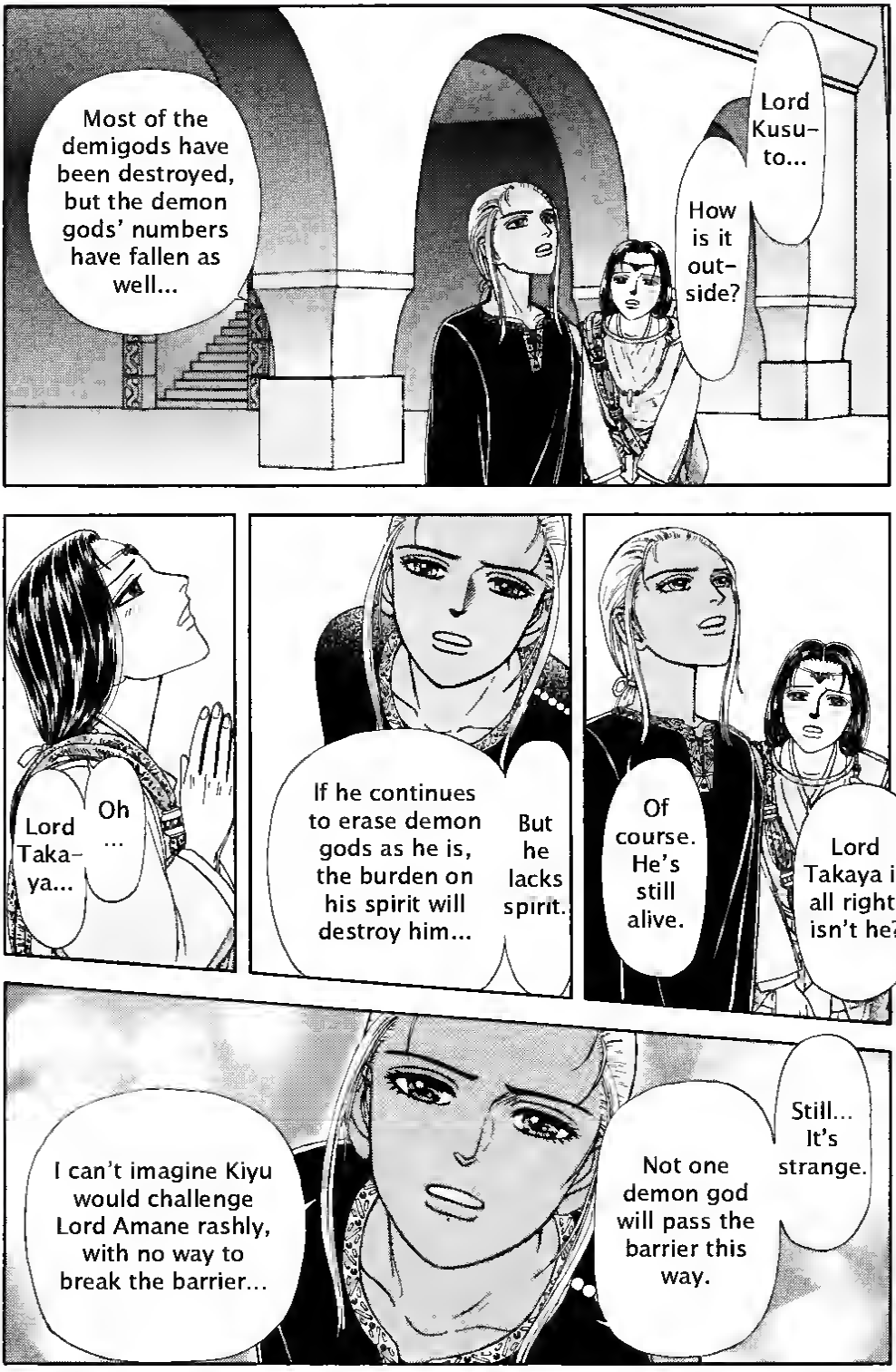
I'm the one...
...who'll destroy you!
Ah... Ah...

SNIK




That was the...
You said... "Kimi-ka"...
The first time you called me...

SKASH
HAAH!
Surround Takaya!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


Most of the demigods have been destroyed, but the demon gods' numbers have fallen as well...
Lord Kusu-to...
How is it out-side?
Lord Taka-ya...
Oh ...
If he continues to erase demon gods as he is, the burden on his spirit will destroy him...
But he lacks spirit.
Of course. He's still alive.
Lord Takaya is all right, isn't he?
I can't imagine Kiyu would challenge Lord Amane rashly, with no way to break the barrier...
Not one demon god will pass the barrier this way.
Still... It's strange.

No...
Lord Kusu-to?
It can't be...
There is a way.
Just one way.
A way for him to enter the bar-rier.
Lord Kusu-to!?
Lord Kaguya is watching her.
Whe-re's Toko!?

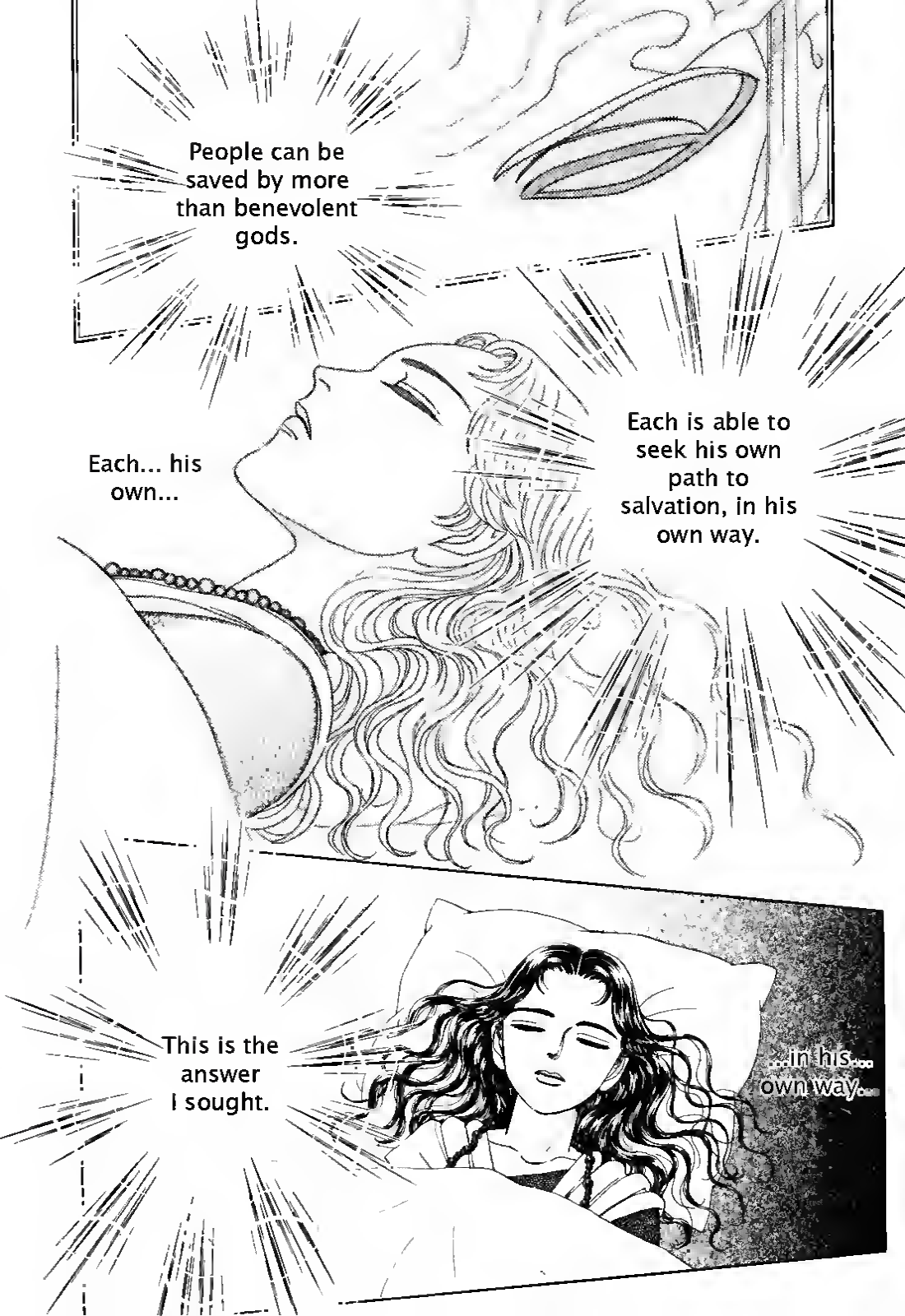
Lord Kusu-to...
Offer more prayers!
The pra-yers!
You're always just a little too late.
A... Aohi-ko!
Snap out of it! Aohiko!

So what, you just stood there and watched!? Why didn't you stop him!?
Well, I... I couldn't do it.
Aohiko was the only one who could save him...
Save him ...?
Who else could have given him such a peaceful death...?

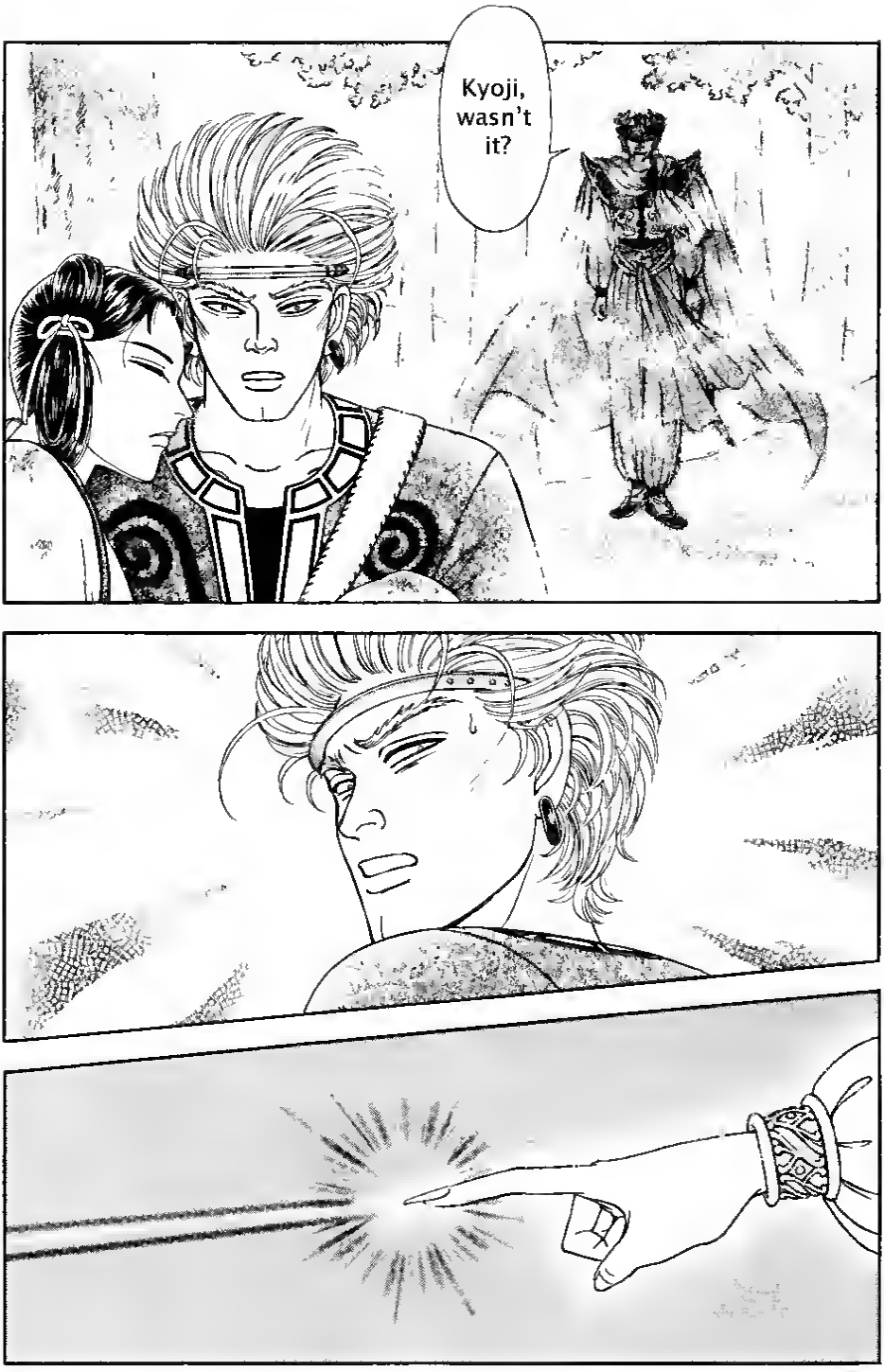
You couldn't settle your score unless one of you died.
You wanted Nachi to cut you down. That's why you gave him that piddling wound.
Do you know how much it would have hurt him to cut you down like that...?
Throwing your life at Nachi...
You really are just a kid.
You two bury Nachi.
He threw away something more precious than life to give Nachi...
Aohiko...
To give Ichirota an easy death...

He said, if his time came, and if he was still alive, to take his shell to Katsura...
He asked me to.
Kyoji! Where ...?
"I don't care if he's empty, just as long as he's there..."
Weren't you the one who said that?
Taking a woman like me seriously...
Nachi and Aohiko both.
They're idiots.

Yoko!
Yoko!
Nachi is dead.
He died smiling peace-fully...
Aohiko shattered his heart to save Nachi's soul.


People can be saved by more than benevolent gods.
Each... his own...
Each is able to seek his own path to salvation, in his own way.
This is the answer I sought.
...in his... own way...

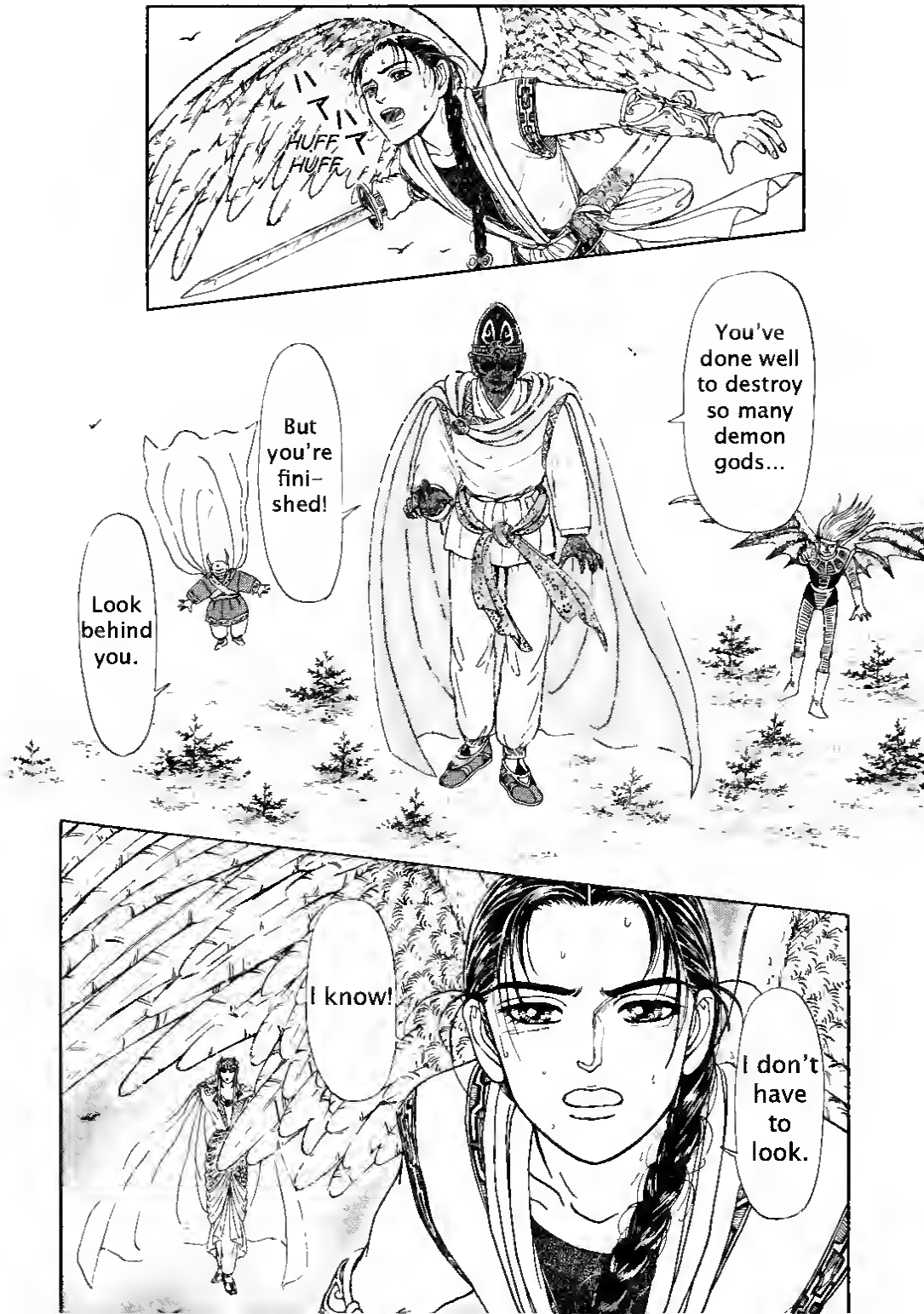
If that answer is in line with your own heart...
Then wake!
Wake and call me!
...To ...


Kyoji, wasn't it?

クククク
HE
HE
HE
HE
Ugk
...
ガクリ
SLUMP
I'll take that man.

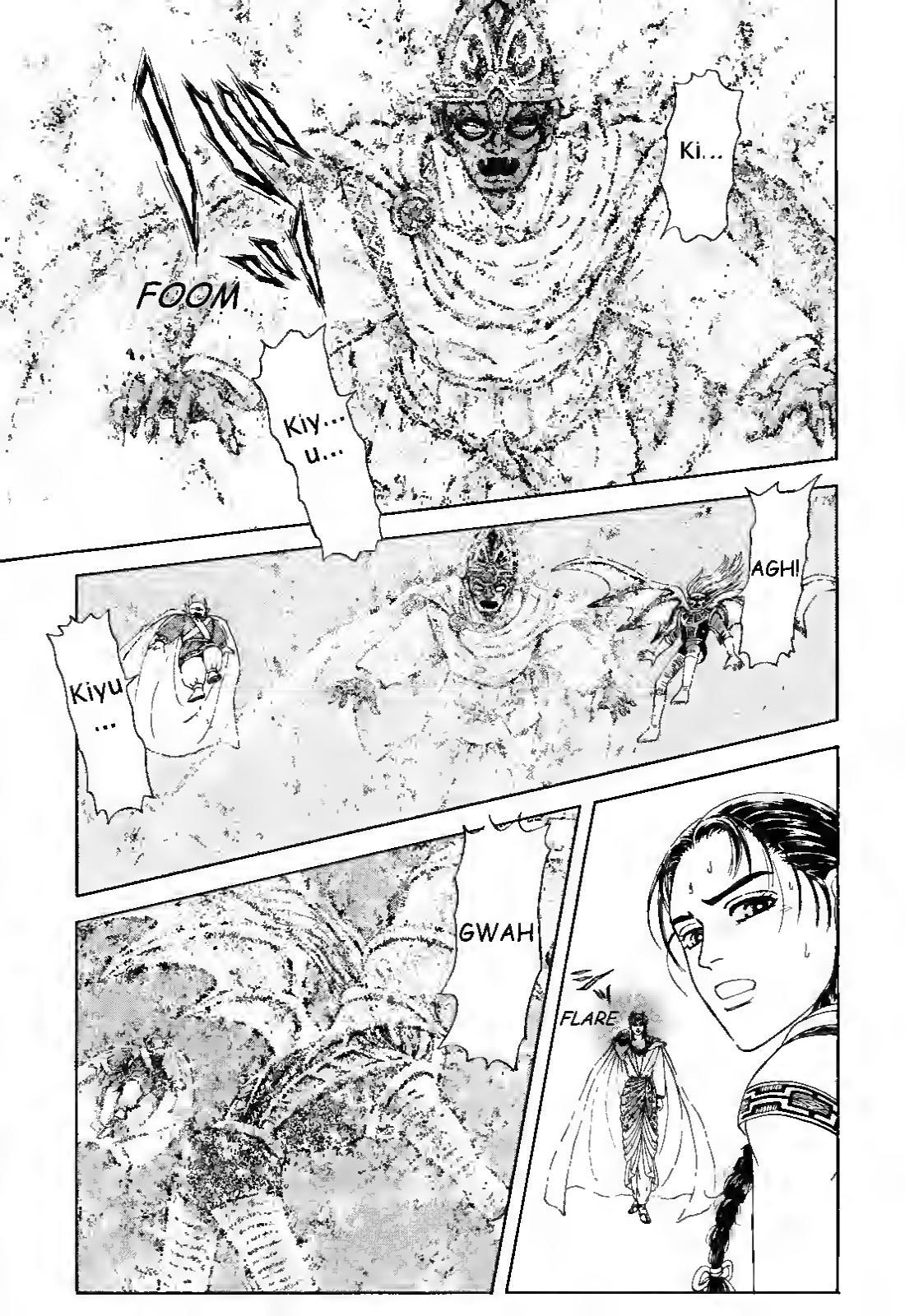
One bliss ...
One way ...
One prayer ...
Toko ...?
Yes ... This place ...
...holds only one answer.
Who are...
Who are you talking to?
It's Kiyu!

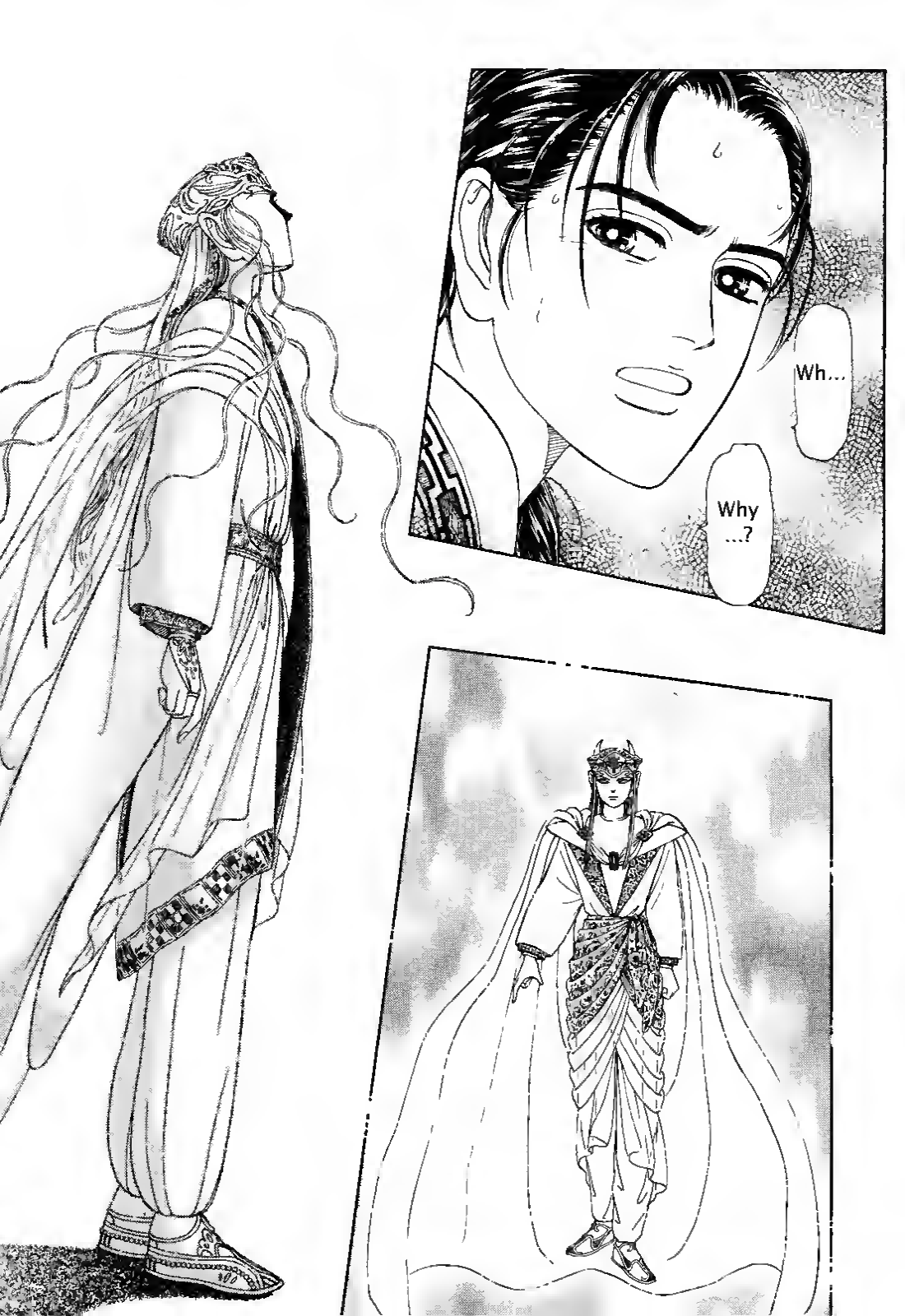
Why didn't I see it sooner!?
Kiyu gave this girl his divine name!

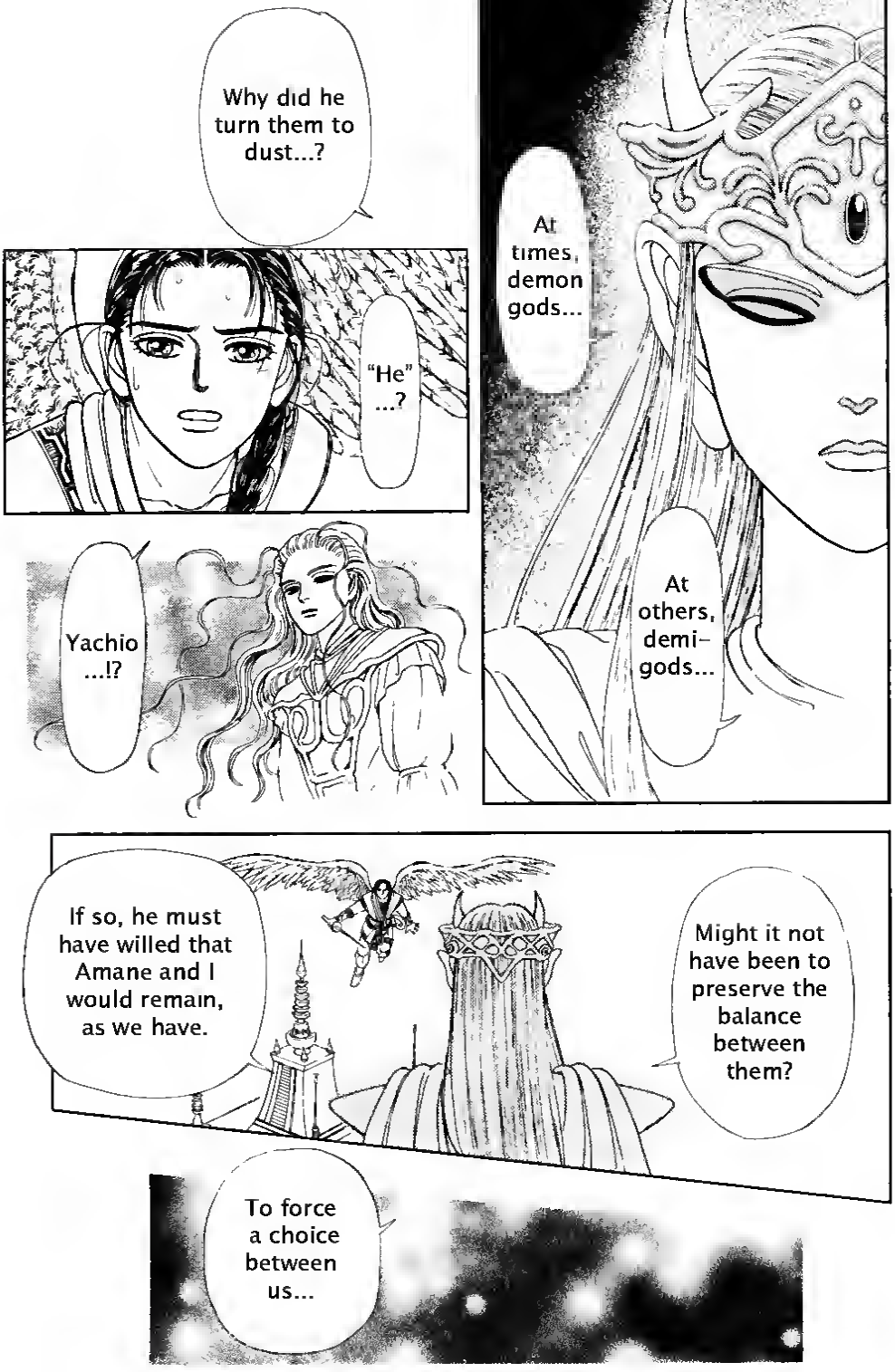

ハアハア
HUFF HUFF
You've done well to destroy so many demon gods...
But you're finished!
Look behind you.
I know!
I don't have to look.

Kiyu...
Then fall like a stone and die.
HEHE
Just tell me one thing!
One thing!

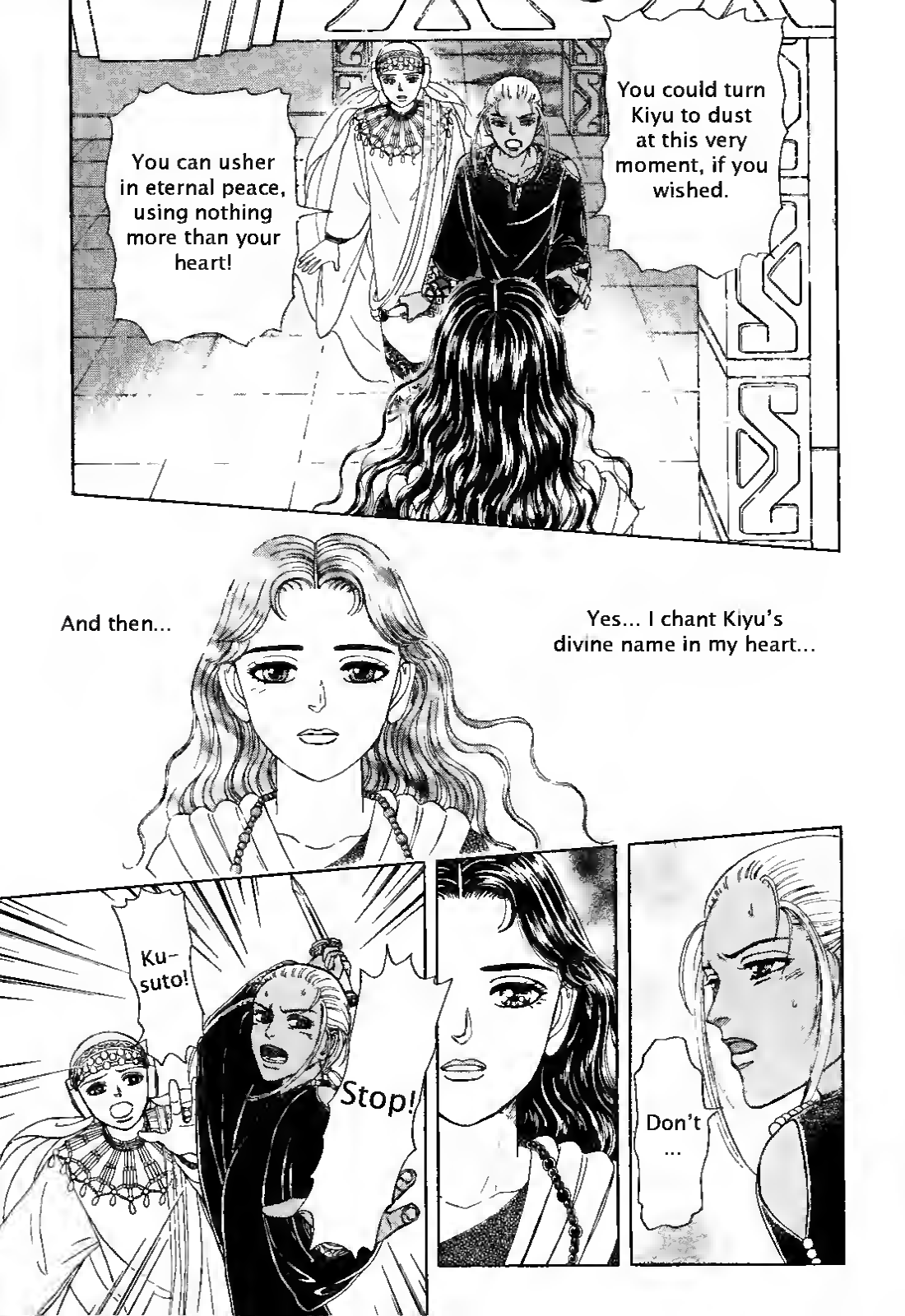
What is your goal!?
What do you want!?
FLARE

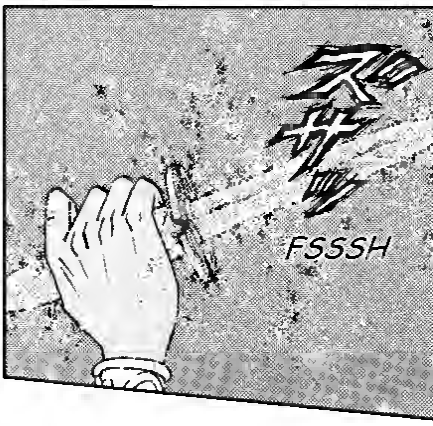

Ki...
FOOM
Kiy... u...
AGH!
Kiyu ...
GWAH
FLARE

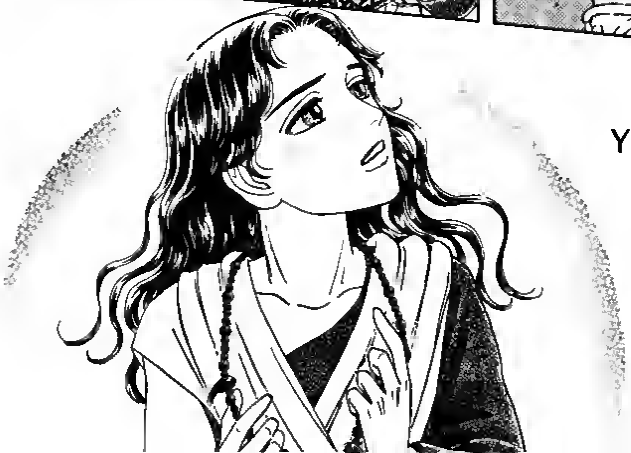

Wh...
Why ...?


Why did he turn them to dust...?
"He" ...?
Yachio ...!?
At times, demon gods...
At others, demi-gods...
If so, he must have willed that Amane and I would remain, as we have.
Might it not have been to preserve the balance between them?
To force a choice between us...

To... know...


You could turn Kiyu to dust at this very moment, if you wished.
You can usher in eternal peace, using nothing more than your heart!
And then...
Yes... I chant Kiyu's divine name in my heart...
Don't ...
Ku-suto!
Stop!

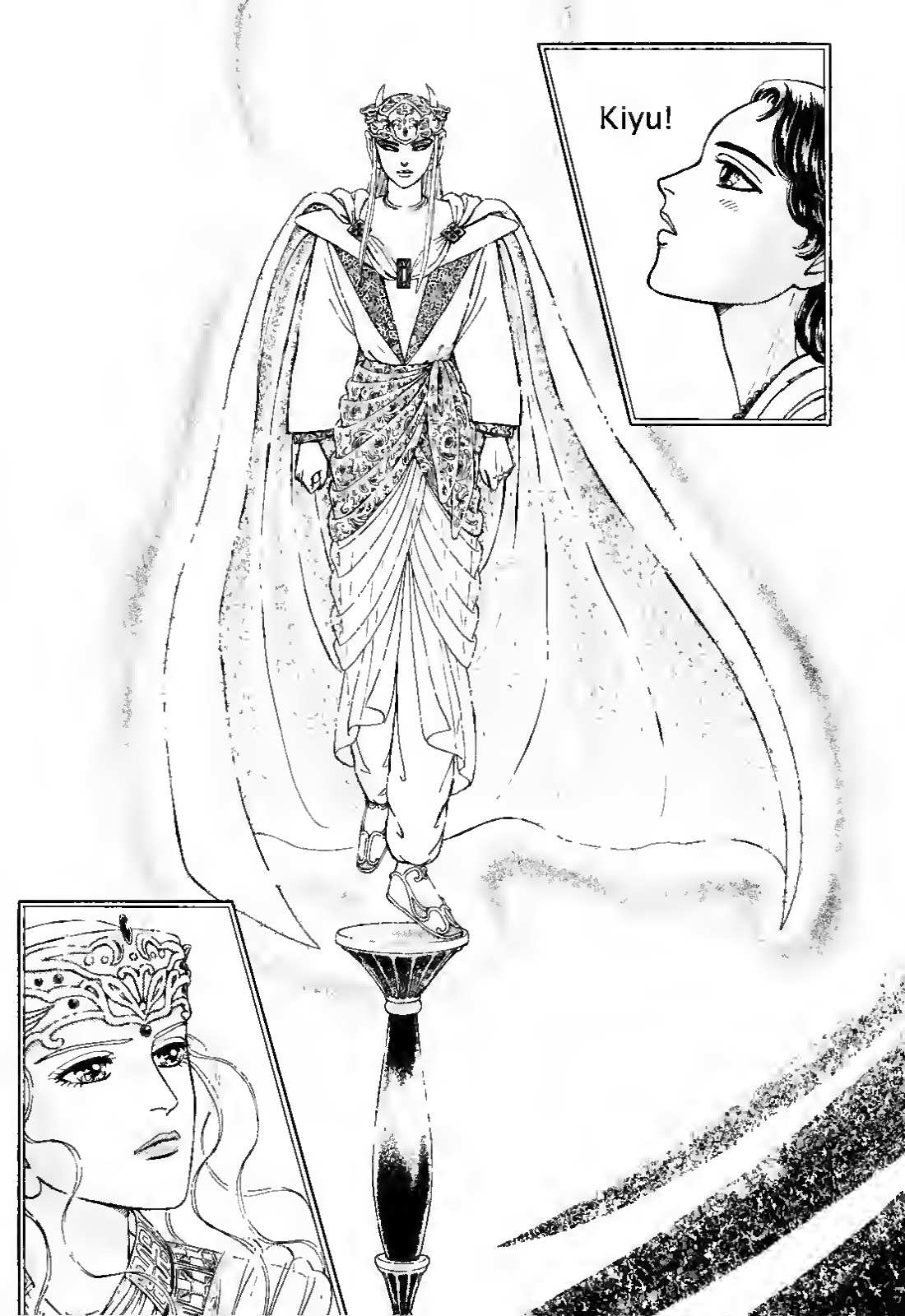




Yachio...!?

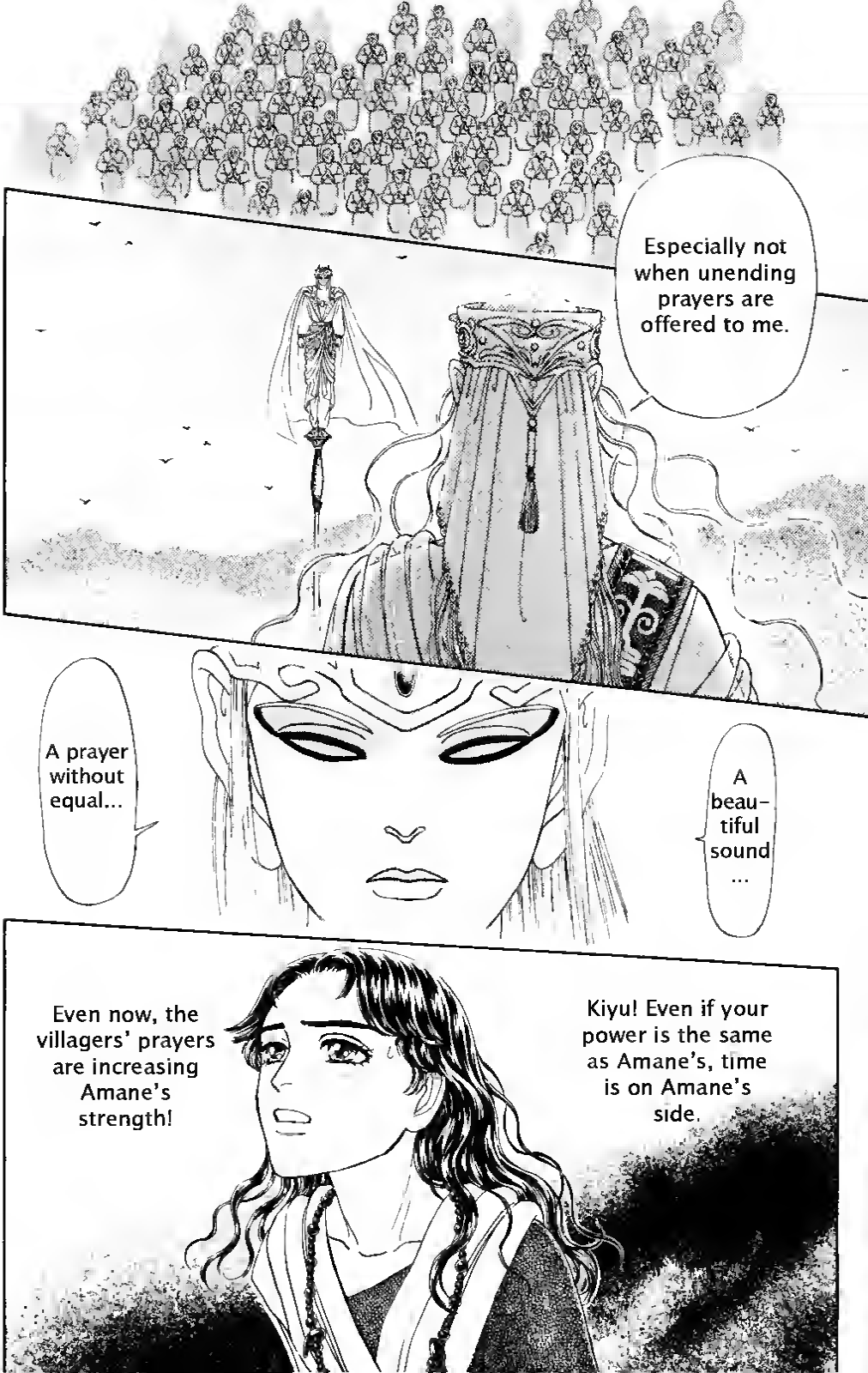
Kiyu!
TMP
Come to me!

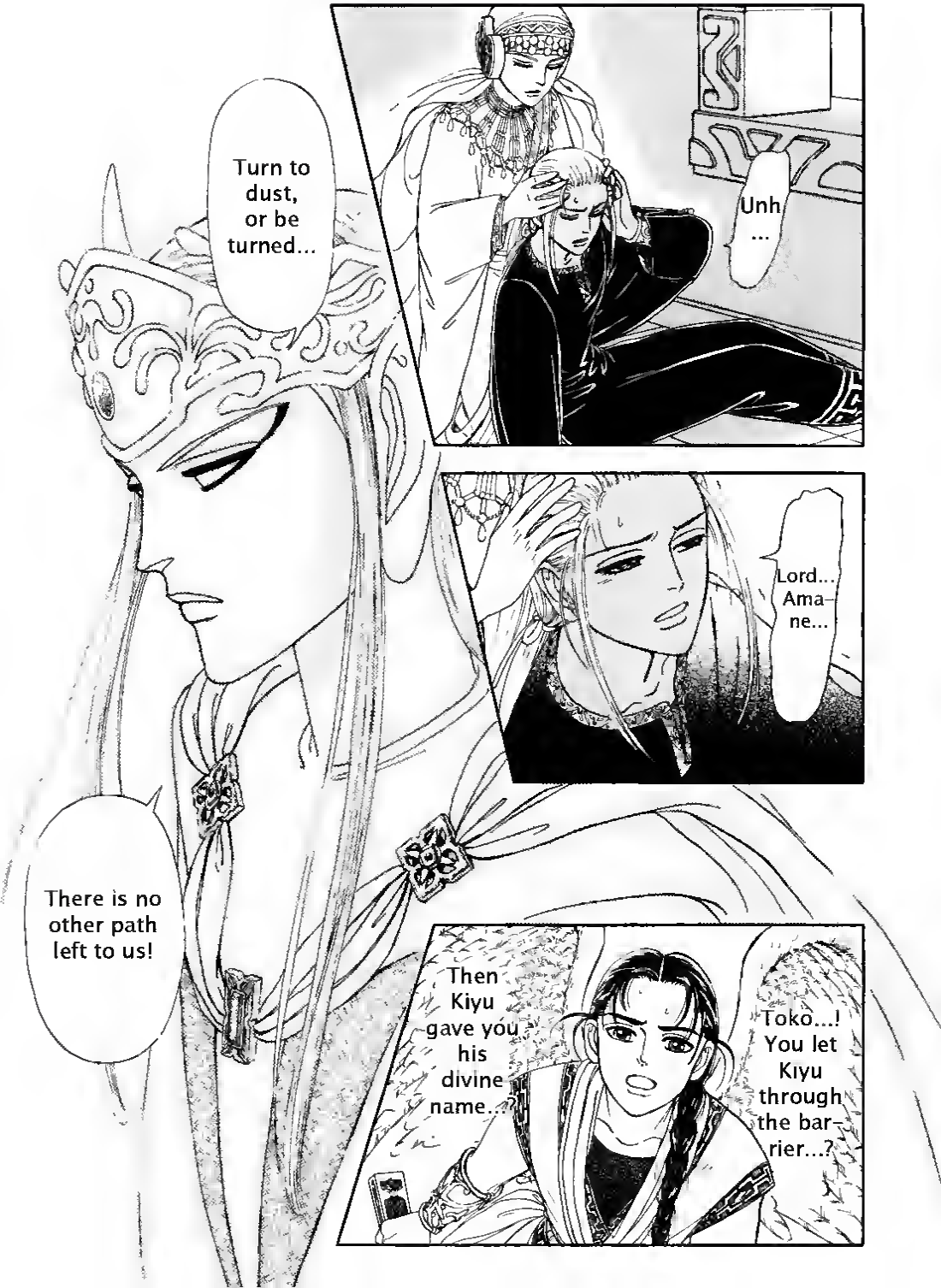
FFT
He vanished!?


Kiyu!

Aaaa

Have you entered the barrier to turn me to dust?
You can't defeat me on your own...
My peop-le!
Pray!
Pray harder!


Especially not when unending prayers are offered to me.
A prayer without equal...
A beau-tiful sound ...
Even now, the villagers' prayers are increasing Amane's strength!
Kiyu! Even if your power is the same as Amane's, time is on Amane's side.


Unh ...
Turn to dust, or be turned...
Lord... Amane...
There is no other path left to us!
Then Kiyu gave you his divine name...?
Toko...! You let Kiyu through the barrier...?

A beautiful sound...
One lone prayer...
Kiyu!

KRIK
SKAAAASH

What...
Ah...
A... a demi-god!?
Ohh!

Even if I asked what you are doing there, why you are as you are, and you answered...
It would mean nothing now.
Humans will find peace by walking, not with demigods nor with demon gods, but with me.
Can Amane save one such as Nachi...?
Kiyu!? Why...?

Vanish into dust!
He died smiling peace-fully...
Nachi is dead.
Kiyu!
To each his own path... In his own way...

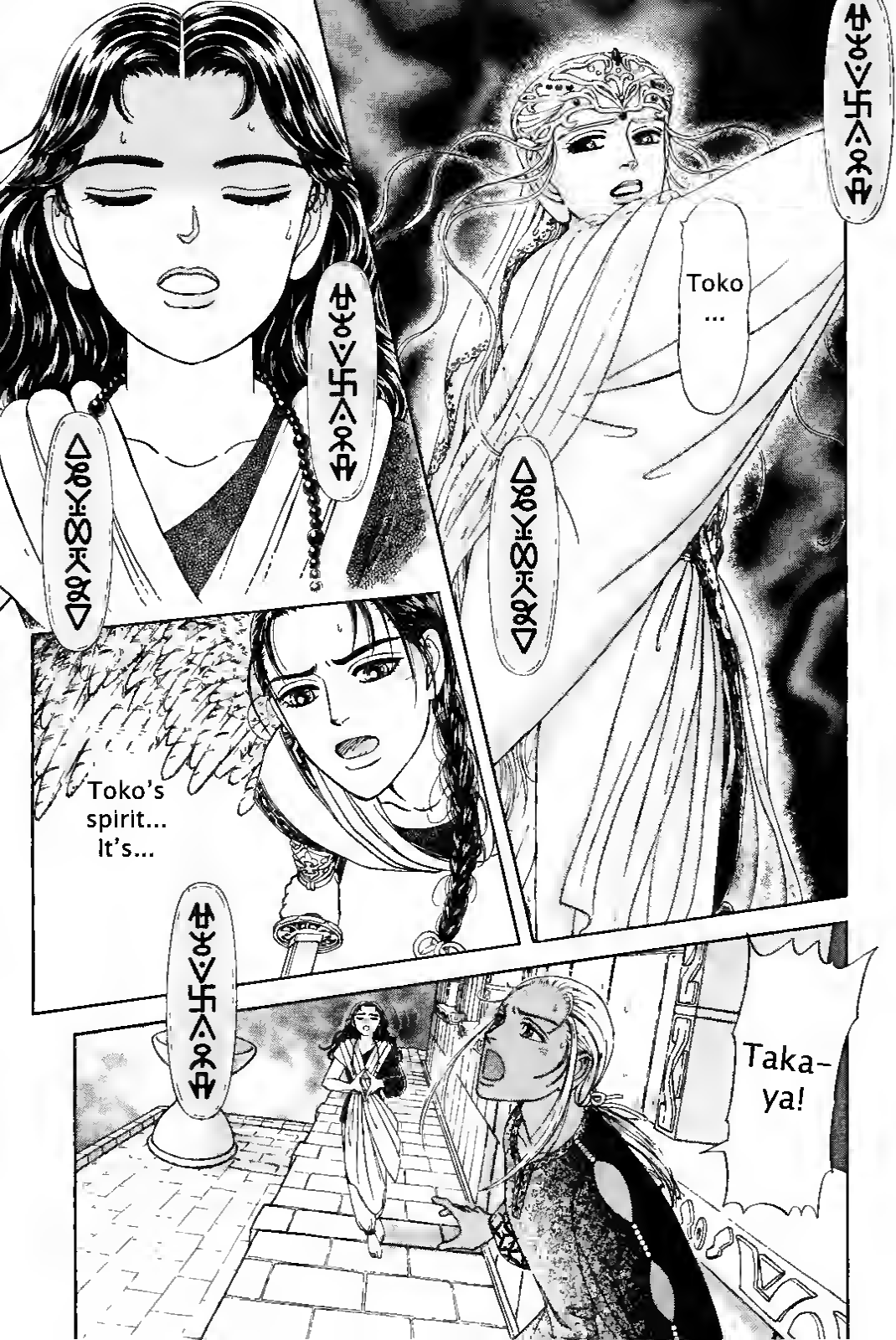
Neither Yoko, or Toko, or those tears...
I will not let you go...
It was Kiyu...
Back then... It wasn't me who was crying.
Toko!

Toko, stop!
Don't use those yin sto-nes!
You'll die!
ᐊᓂᓴᓂᒃ
ᓯᓚᑲᓂᒃ
ᐊᓂᓴᓂᒃ
ᓯᓚᑲᓂᒃ
ᐊᓂᓴᓂᒃ
ᓯᓚᑲᓂᒃ

Here, there is only one answer...
Stop!
Kaguya!?

Let me go!
That's a yin stone mantra!
Lord Amane!
You did very well...
Kaguya!
...is truly...
Your ideal ...
Kusuto...

Beau-
tiful...
Aaaah
...
Lord
Ama-
ne!
The
barrier's
gone!


Toko
...
Toko's
spirit...
It's...
Taka-
ya!

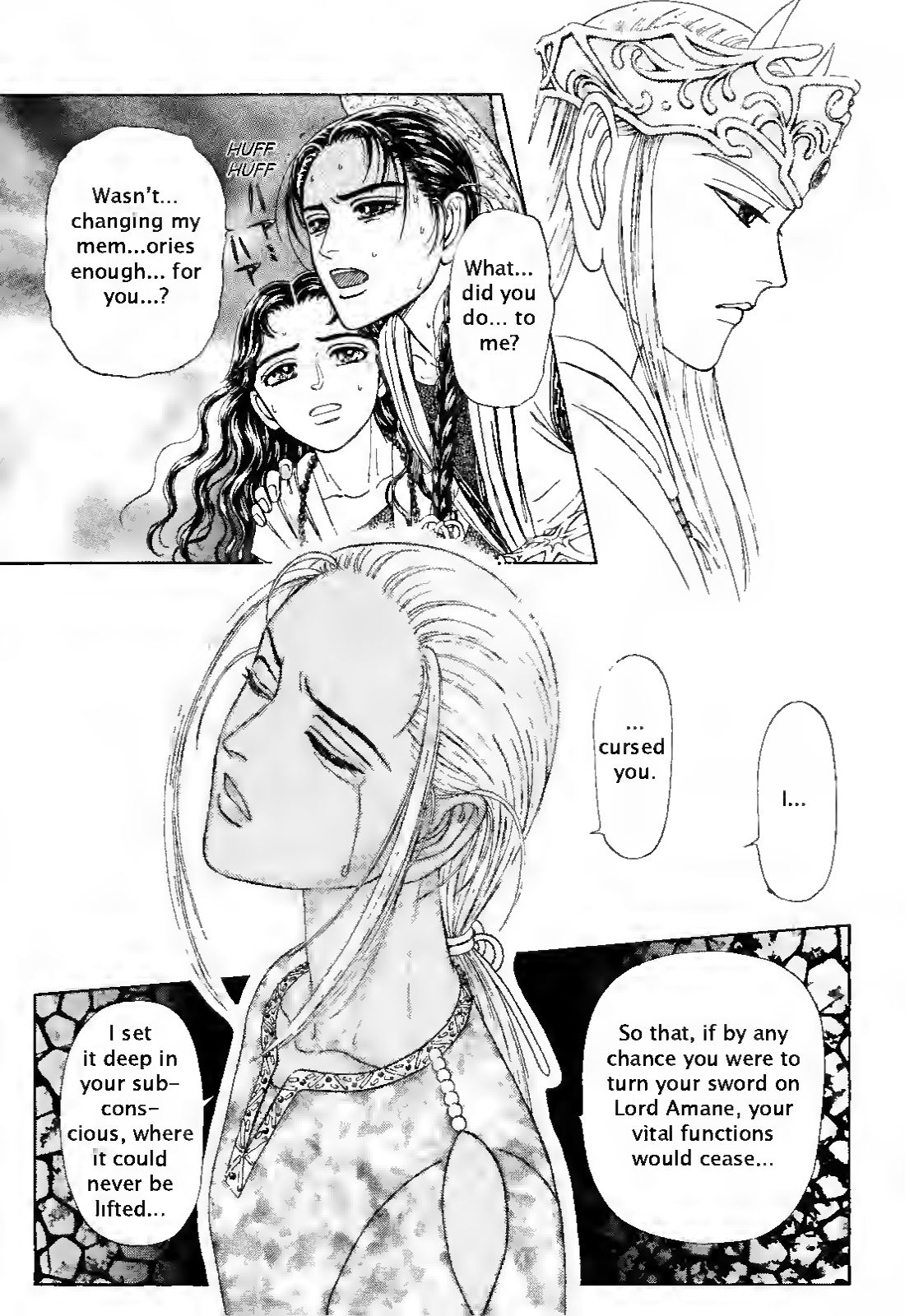
But this is...
I will walk with Toko!
Taka-ya, no!
Aaaa aaaaa hhh!

My will!
SLASH
Ta ...

...choo-se the path...
Why... do you...
...of... destruc... tion...?

Lord Amane!
Aah...
KYAAAAAAH!
Toko!
Takaya!
Ah...

I can't ... control my body ...
Ugk ...
Taka-ya!?
Ugh ...
Do you under-stand...
...what you two have done?
Huma-nity's hope...
You've destroyed the one path to salva-tion...


HUFF
HUFF
Wasn't... changing my mem...ories enough... for you...?
What... did you do... to me?
... cursed you.
I...
I set it deep in your sub-cons-cious, where it could never be lifted...
So that, if by any chance you were to turn your sword on Lord Amane, your vital functions would cease...

I wanted that power of yours...
That strength, and that will...
HUFF
HUFF
You were supposed to die as your sword turned on her.
SNAP
But I expect you'll die soon, too.
Because I, who placed the suggestion...
...am about to die...

It's strange ...
Lord Kusu-to!
All those long, long years...
...and all I remember are the false days I spent with you.
No... Don't ...
Ku... suto ...
This poison that will kill me and our child... This was you...
You were poison ...

Child!?
Kusu-
to!
Ahh
...

KRIK
GKH!
Taka-ya!
Kiyu!
Lend Takaya strength!
Even you...
Help Taka-ya!
That is my wish!

I'd wait if I were you.
Aohi-ko!

To think you gave your divine name to Toko...
I suspected, but I didn't believe it.
Give that demi-god form and the dregs of your power as a demon god to me.

Yoko!
Offer Kiyu's divine name to me!
Or would you rather it landed at your feet!?
Do it, or I'll throw this down into the crowd of believers.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Don't!
Risson
...
CRAK
Risson!
Risson!

I pray...
...on your divine name!
FFT
Wha!?
Come to me!

FLARE
GWAH!!
FOOM

FOOM
FOOM
Ris-
son!
Lord
Ris-
son!
OHH!

Aohi-ko!
I knew... if I called... you wouldn't be able to return to Towada, but I still...
I'm... really sorry...
Risson...

You called Risson here, Takaya?
Then... Risson gave you his divine name?
I was... start-led, too...
I didn't think... you'd also...
Kiyu...
Our paths were different, but you and I sought the same thing.
If you've given your divine name to a human, then go to Mount Towada.
I believe that gives you the right to "know."
Or it might be better called the right to receive a scrap of mercy...

Even if I was on the brink of turning to dust, no matter how vain an answer it was...
...in learning it, I found satisfac-tion.
Then Risson, you...
I was allowed to "know."
The time must have been right.
What a comfort his wavelength was to me...
Not only that, but, at the end, I was able to save Aohiko's life.

I know of no one whose wavelength longs so quietly and fiercely for truth.
Yes. I could not save him from his fate.
Yeah...
Taka-ya...
Aohi-ko is...
A... Aohi-ko...
Katsura... is... alive...
I know... she'll come here... looking...
...for you...

Lord Ris-son!
Please save us! Please!
Lord Ris-son!
Lord Ris-son!
Lord Ris-son!
How should we live, now that we've lost Lord Amane!?
I have neither the time nor the strength left...
...to guide and protect you.

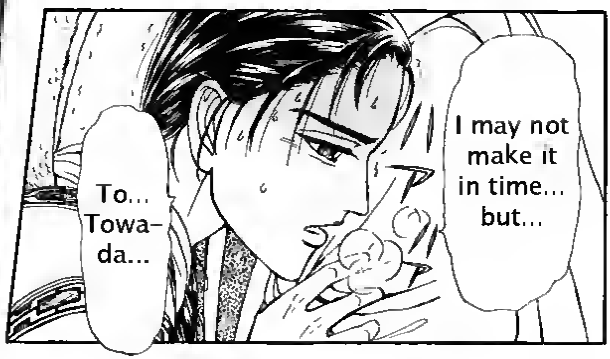
Aaaa aaa ah...
Aaaa aaa ah...

At least sleep peacefully for a while...
Sarai...
A woman named Katsura should be here soon.
The one who was Lord Risson's warrior?
Ka... Katsu... ra...?

I'm sure she'll lead you and your people well.
And... I know you must hate me, but please...
Please... Don't seek revenge on this person for what I've done.
Sarai ... isn't ...
...that type... of per- son...
Sarai ...
Give... A- Aohiko to... Kat- sura...
Please ...
Please ...

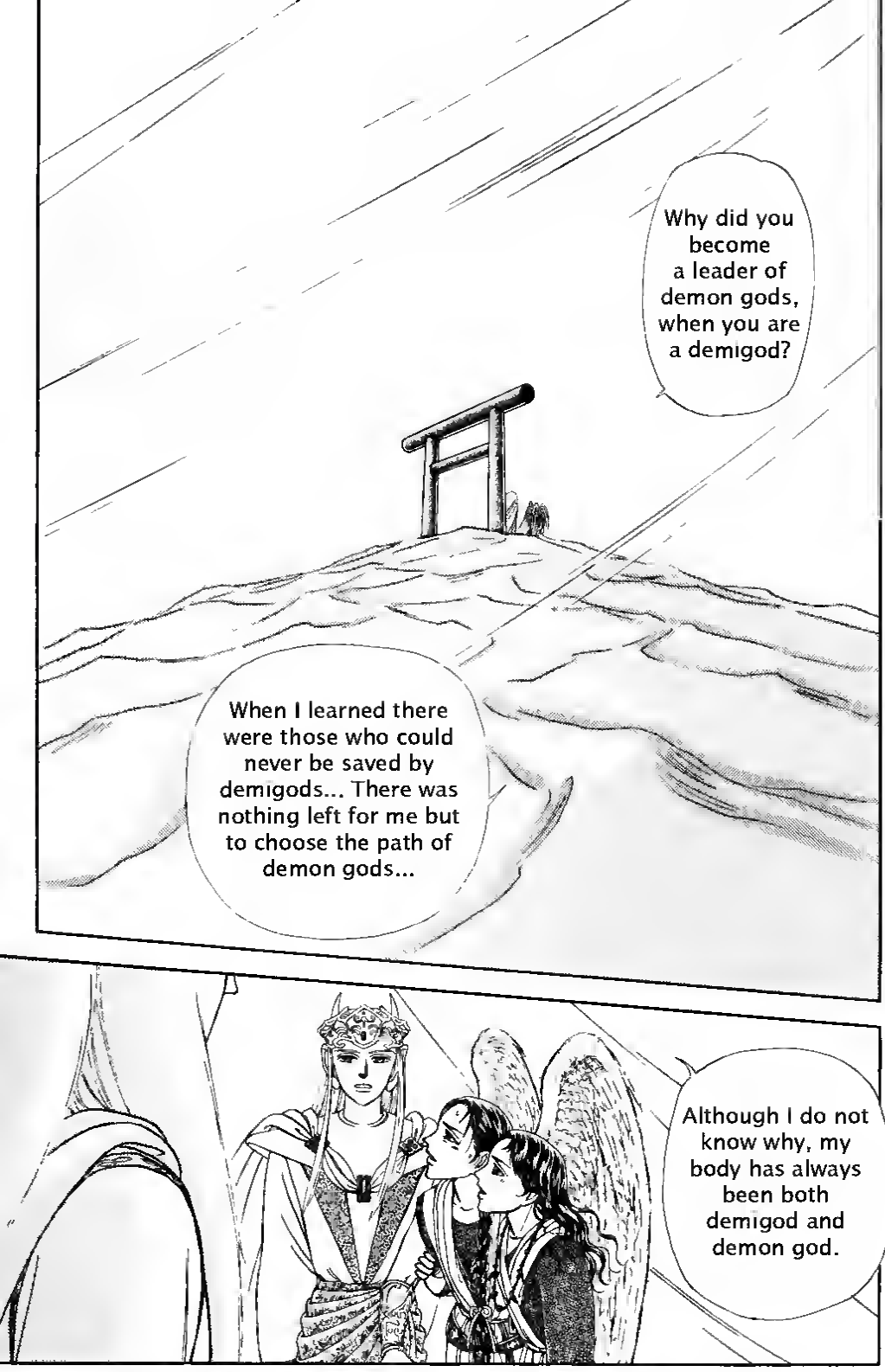
CRAK

L-
Lord
Taka-
ya...
Where
will
you...?


I may not
make it
in time...
but...
To...
Towa-
da...

To Mount
Towada...

The illusory mists are clearing from the forest...
Takaya! What's happened!?
And that sky...
Wha...
SHUF


Why did you become a leader of demon gods, when you are a demigod?
When I learned there were those who could never be saved by demigods... There was nothing left for me but to choose the path of demon gods...
Although I do not know why, my body has always been both demigod and demon god.

It must have been the will of those who dwell at Towada.
Ris-son!
It is time for us to part.
Toko.
Taka-ya...
All phenomena are turning toward perfect harmony.
A complete void...
But you are different.

Humans are beings that...
... disturb harmo-ny...
Ris-son!
The sacred portal ...
Yoko..
HUFF HUFF
Taka-ya!
Risso ...

RM
RM
RM
RM
It's... my fault ...
Fuji... is... crum-bling...
The portal! Toko...
RM RM RM RM RM

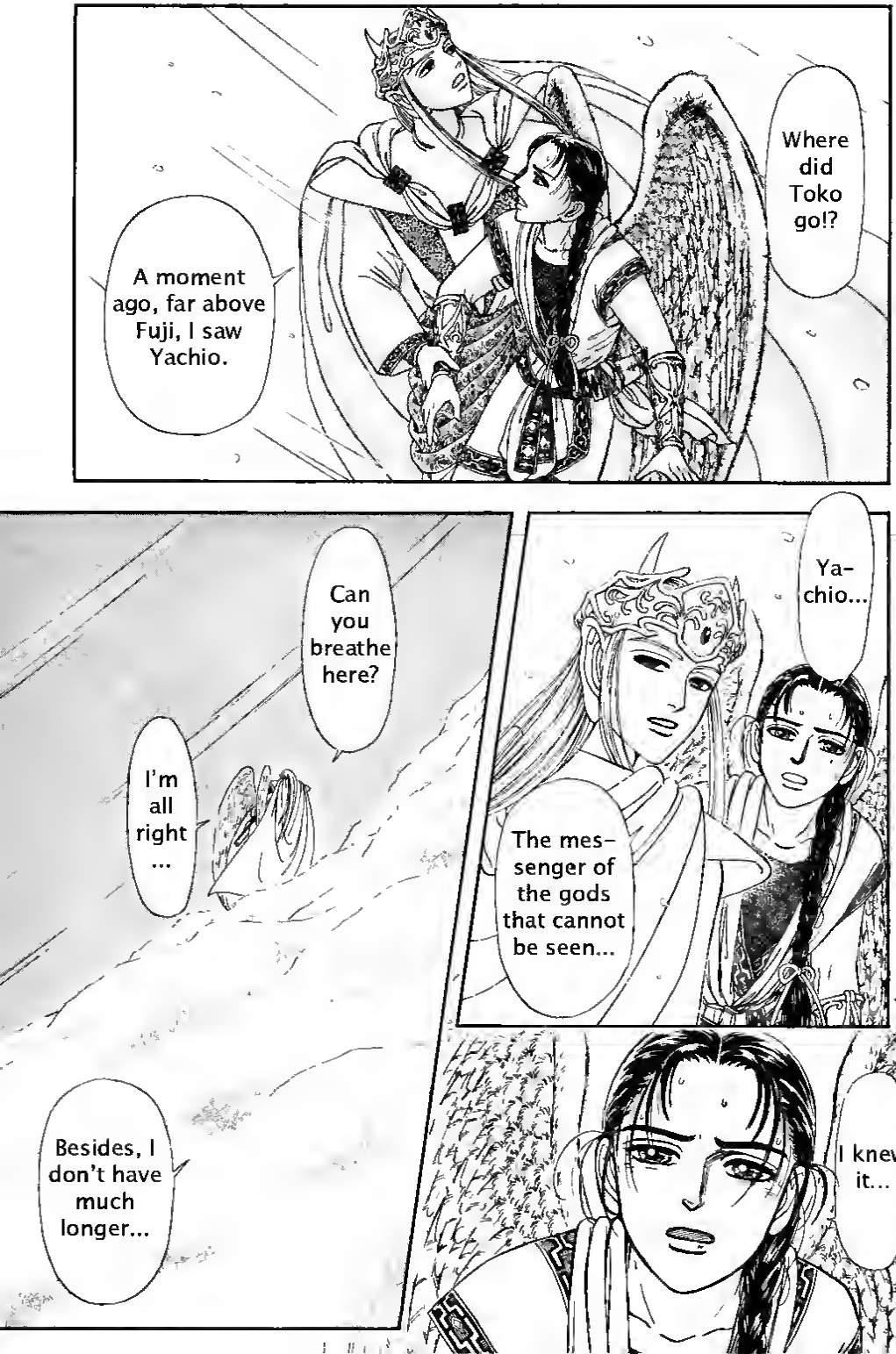
Toko ...
I will always ...
...be with you, Takaya.

Toko!
I'm opening the portal.
RM
RM
RM
RM
RM

Toko...
Toko...
I knew it. You were the one I was meant to meet.

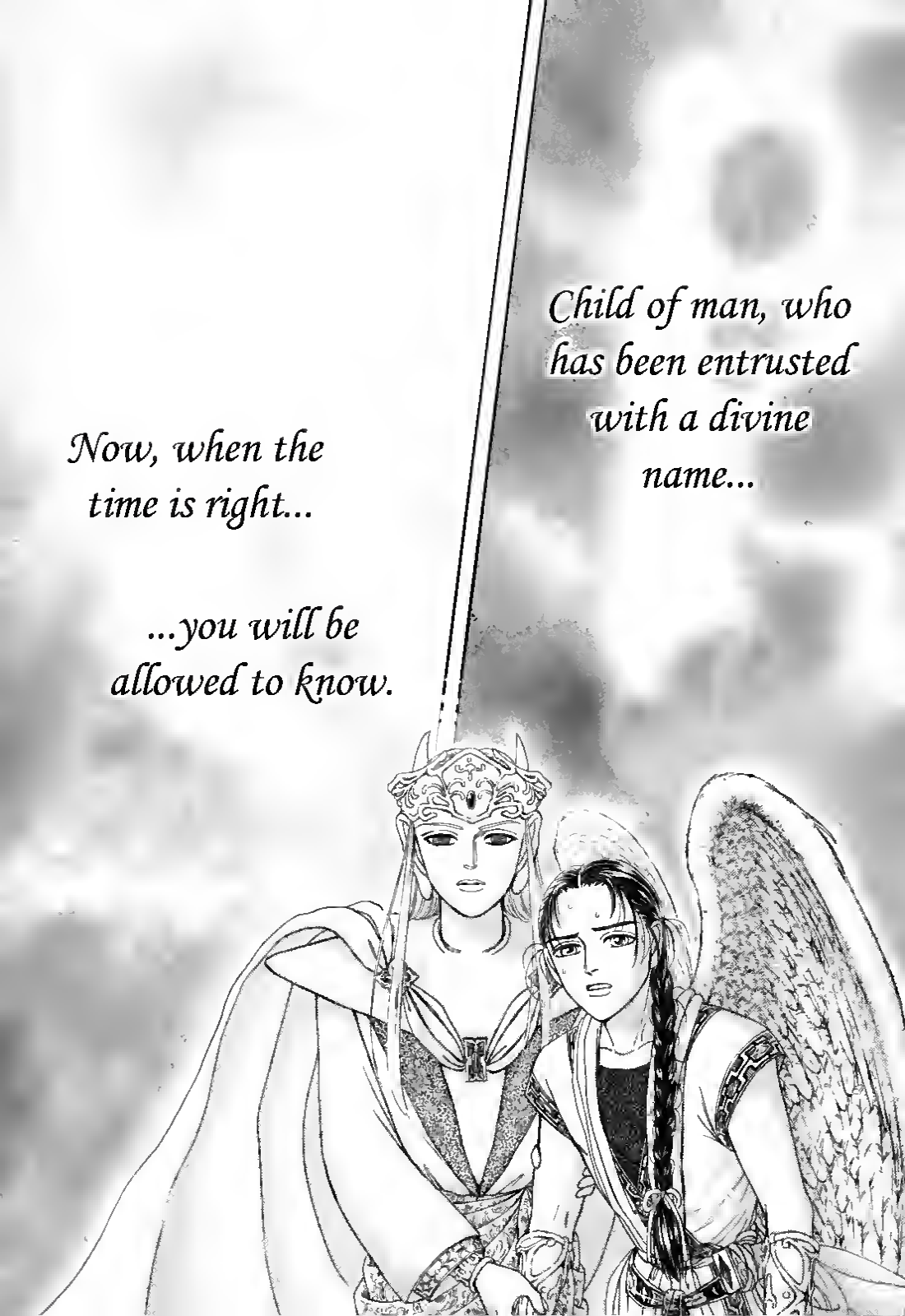
Toko!?
Toko!?
Toko!

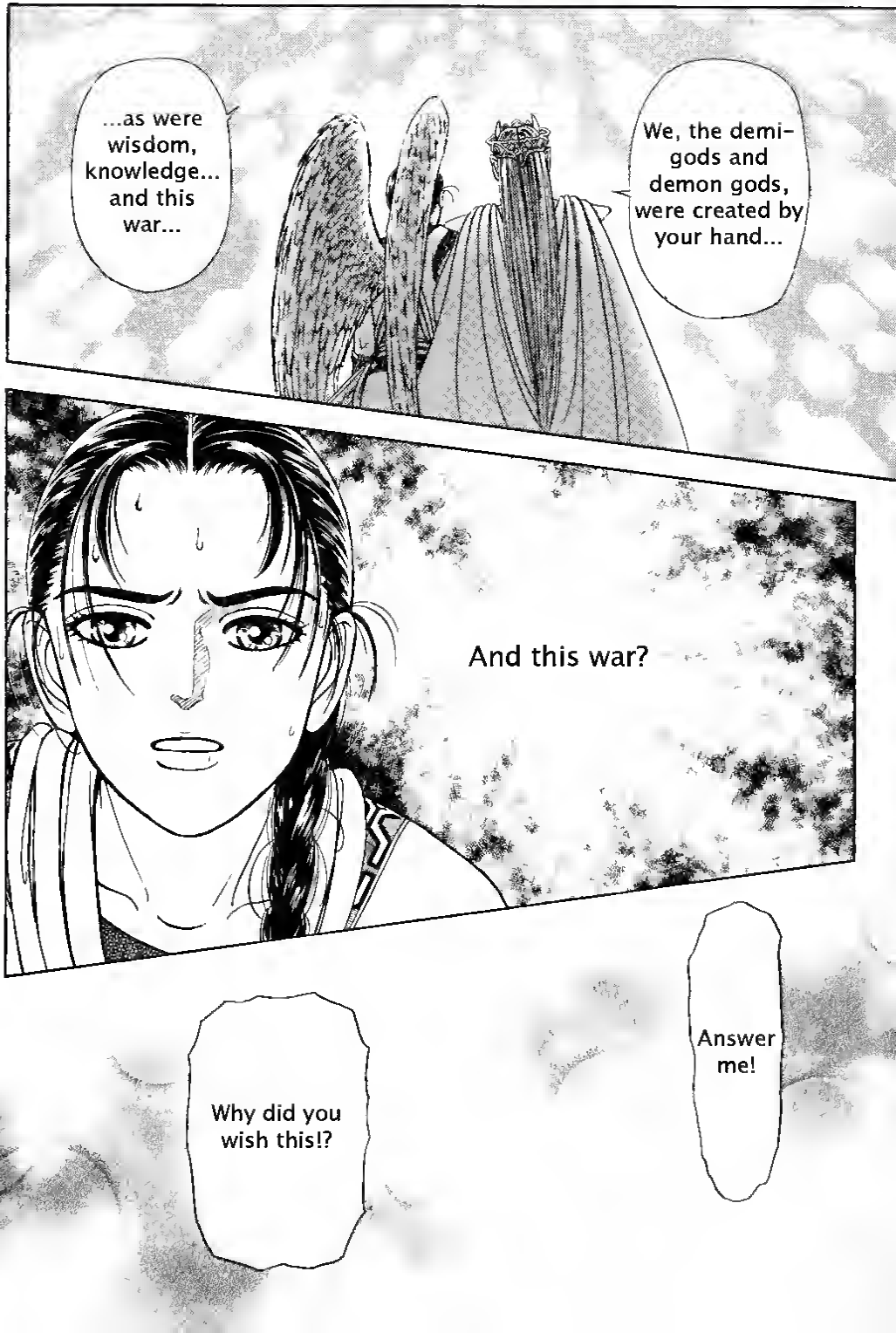
I knew you'd come to meet me.
I was waiting for someone who could turn that into dust to appear...


Where did Toko go!?
A moment ago, far above Fuji, I saw Yachio.
Ya-chio...
The mes-senger of the gods that cannot be seen...
Can you breathe here?
I'm all right ...
Besides, I don't have much longer...
I knew it...

Kiyu, Bright Evening, who gave your divine name to a human...

Oh... This aura... What is it...?
If we have the right to ask...
Plea-se hear us.
All of this occurred according to your will.
Gods that can-not be seen!


Child of man, who has been entrusted with a divine name...
Now, when the time is right...
...you will be allowed to know.


...as were wisdom, knowledge... and this war...
We, the demi-gods and demon gods, were created by your hand...
And this war?
Answer me!
Why did you wish this!?

All was done to keep the human race from straying from the path of evolution.

First, we are not gods.

You have no word to express us.

A conscious entity composed of information... A consciousness born from information... Ordered chaos...

The human race is an extremely rare phenomenon.

Life exists by accumulating information, but the amount of information related to one species is minuscule, and therefore stable.

However, humans are reborn again and again, accumulating limitless information in a receptor known as "a soul." This makes them too unstable to predict.

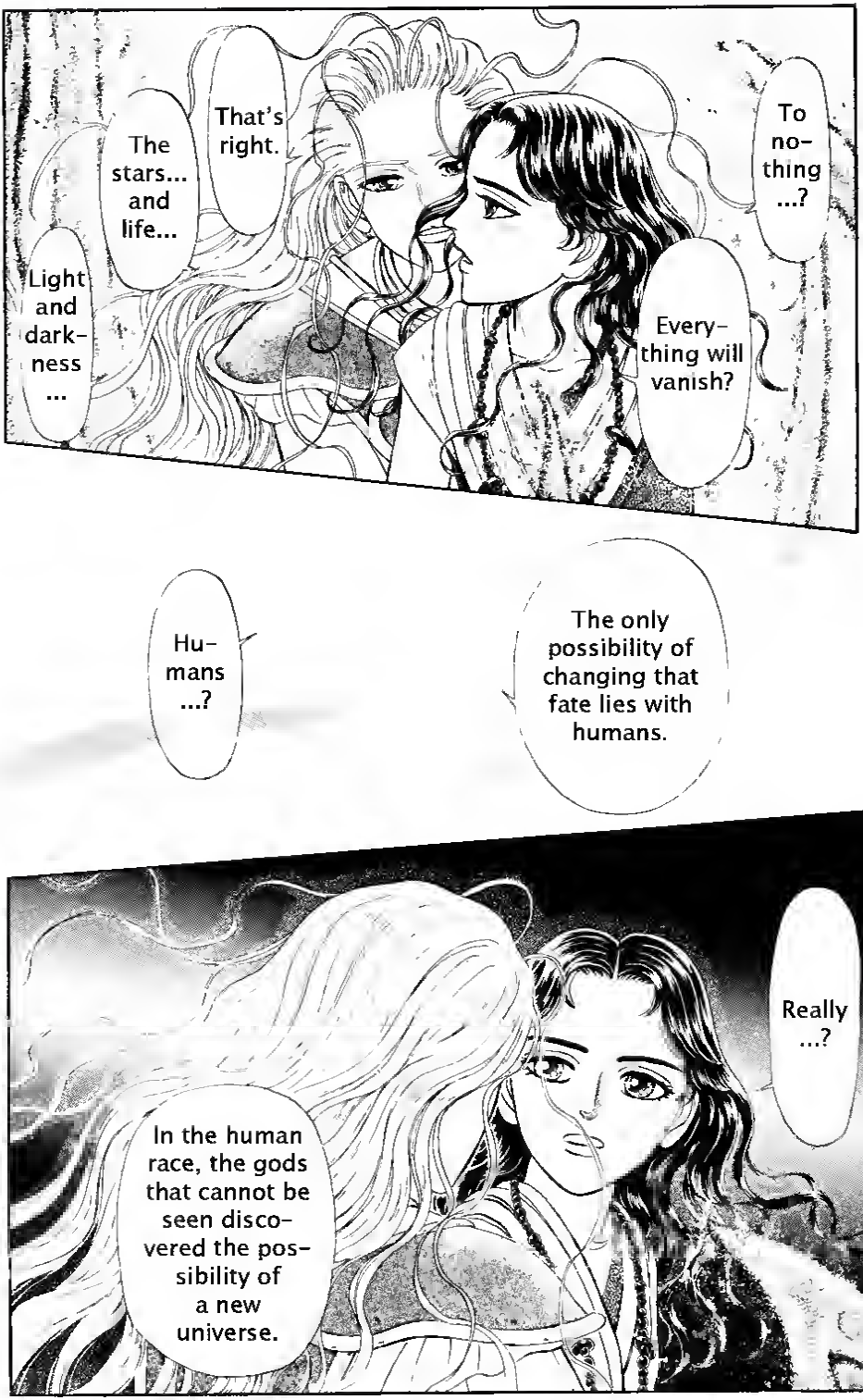
At the subconscious level, the vast accumulation of information surpasses the boundaries of the individual, developing into a more complex information system...

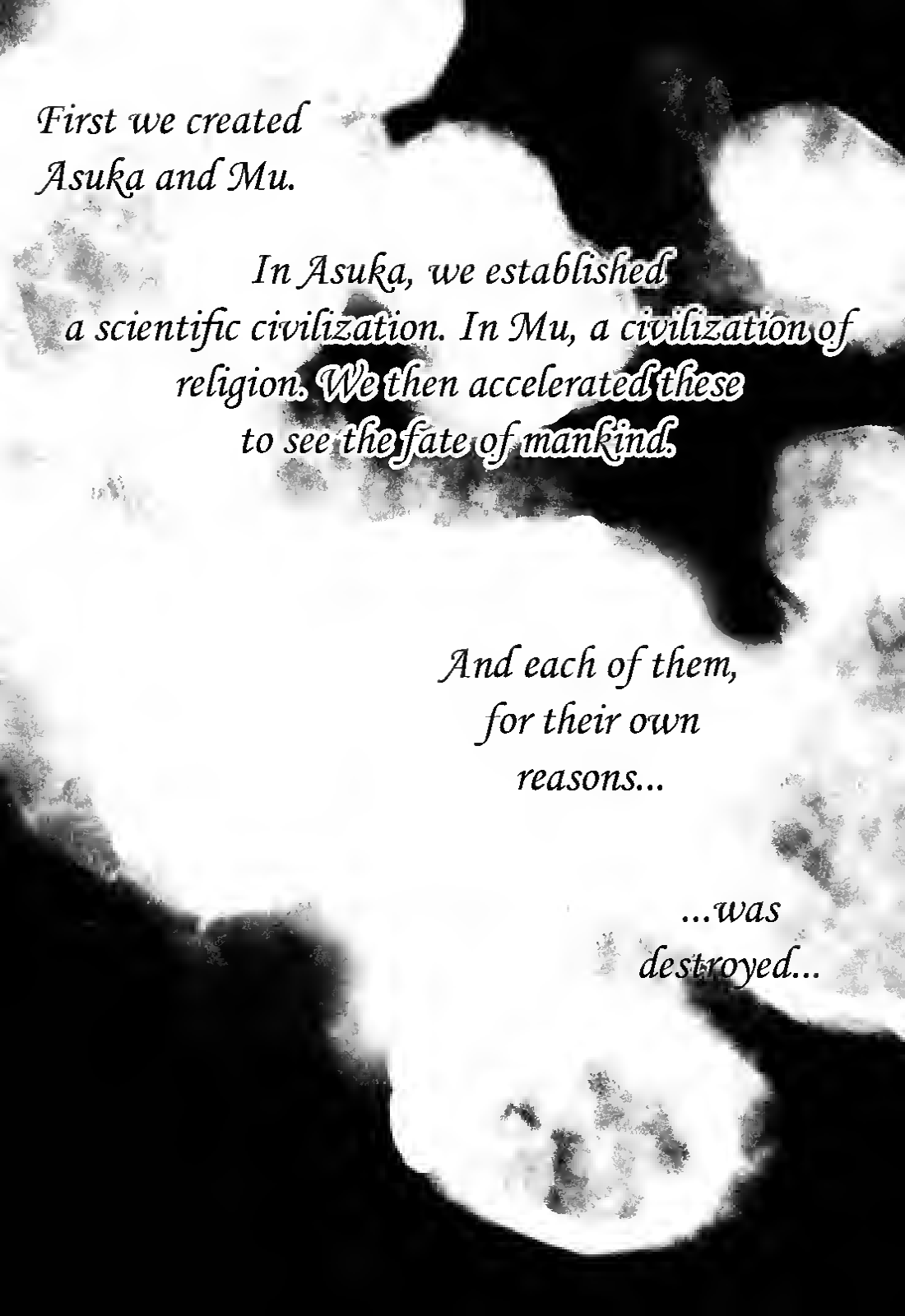
This runs counter to the progression towards entropy.

Humanity is an evolving...

...disharmony.

Infor-
mation
disper-
ses.
Infor-
mation
disper-
ses.
Infor-
mation
disper-
ses.
I
don't...
under-
stand
...
Those were
the first
words
I learned
One day, the
universe will be
engulfed by
harmony, and
life and the stars
will return to
nothingness.
It's the
fate
of the
uni-
verse.


Light and dark-ness ...
The stars... and life...
That's right.
To no-thing ...?
Every-thing will vanish?
Hu-mans ...?
The only possibility of changing that fate lies with humans.
In the human race, the gods that cannot be seen disco-vered the pos-sibility of a new universe.
Really ...?


First we created
Asuka and Mu.
In Asuka, we established
a scientific civilization. In Mu, a civilization of
religion. We then accelerated these
to see the fate of mankind.
And each of them,
for their own
reasons...
...was
destroyed...

Kusuto did not realize his eyes had been warped by the scientific civilization in which he lived.

To Kusuto, Mu must have seemed ideal.

Wait!
Please wait!
...then turned them to dust...
You created Asuka and Mu...
Without ever kno wing...!
Those people sank into the ocean, didn't they!?

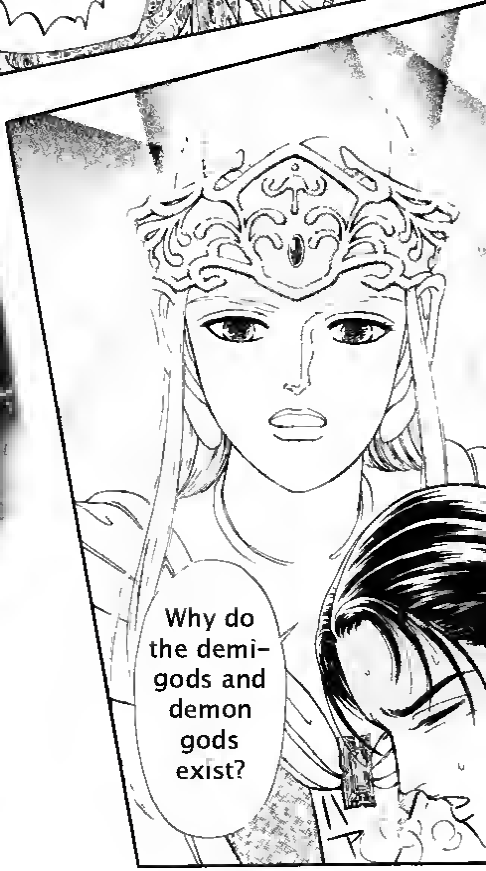
What we learned from Mu is that, with the appearance of the one god...

...humans cease to accumulate information and abandon their evolution.

To carve many gods...

or the concept of polytheism onto the soul of humanity as information...

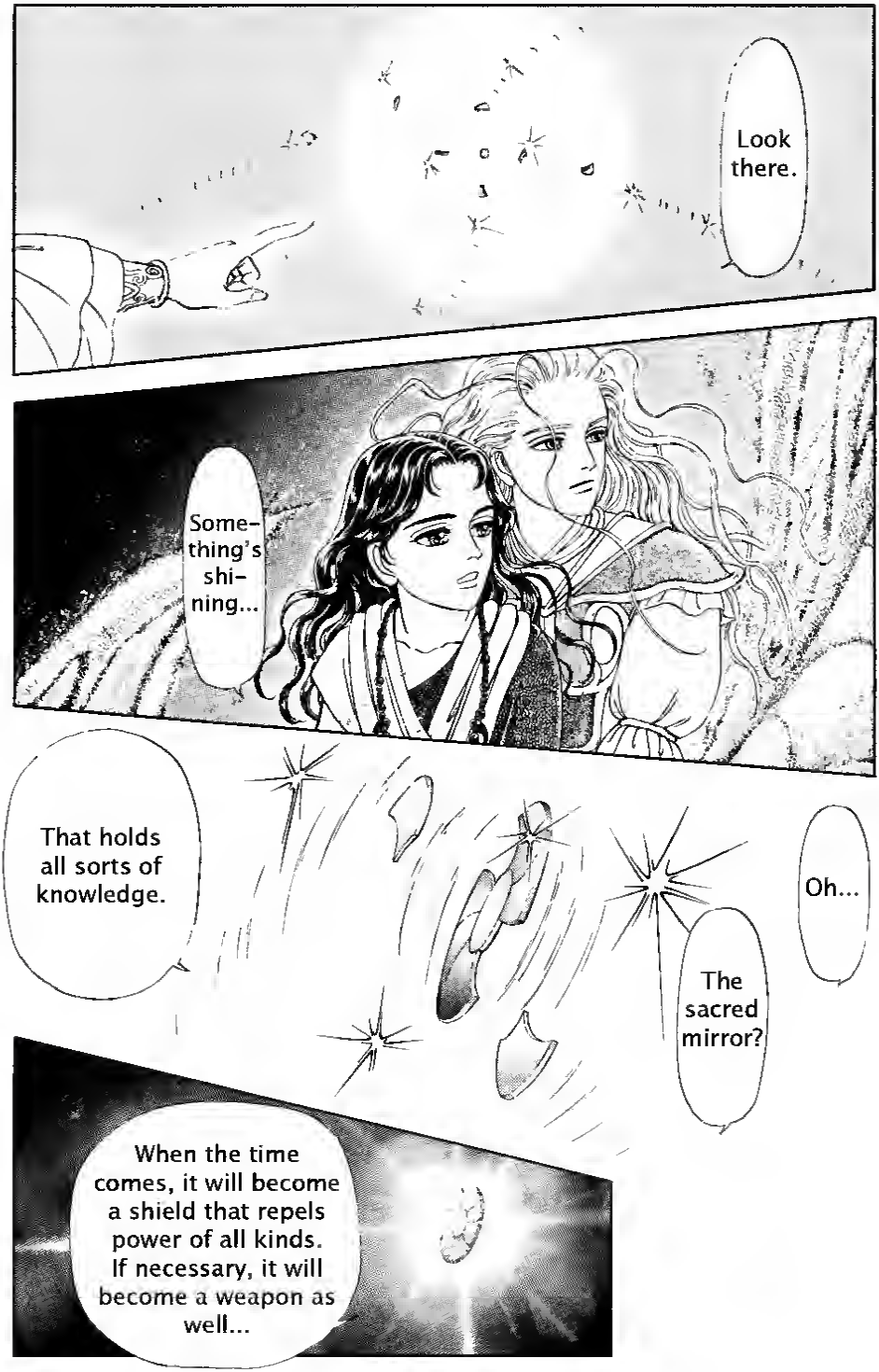
This was also why we introduced ourselves as gods...

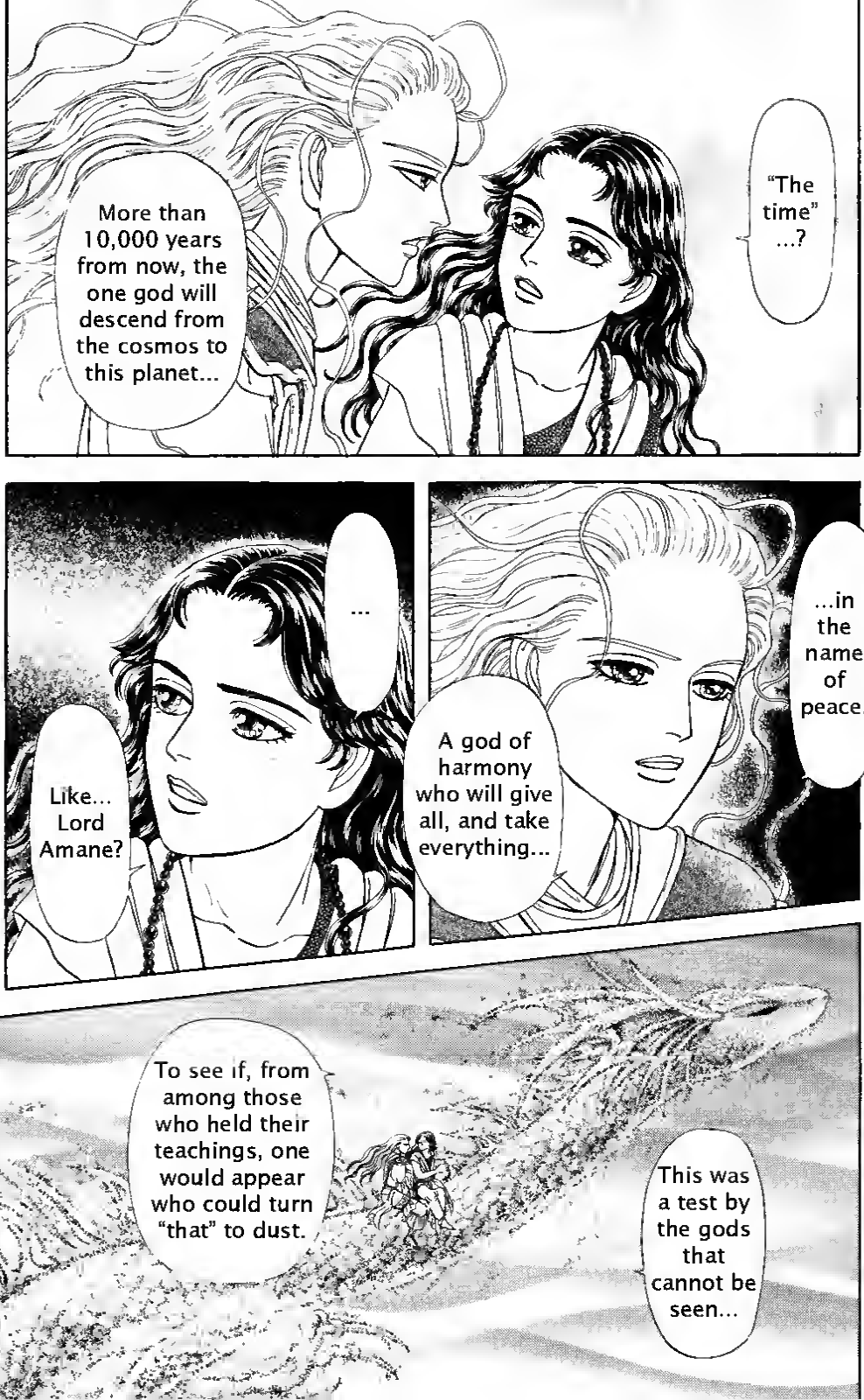


The god of harmony...
The one god...

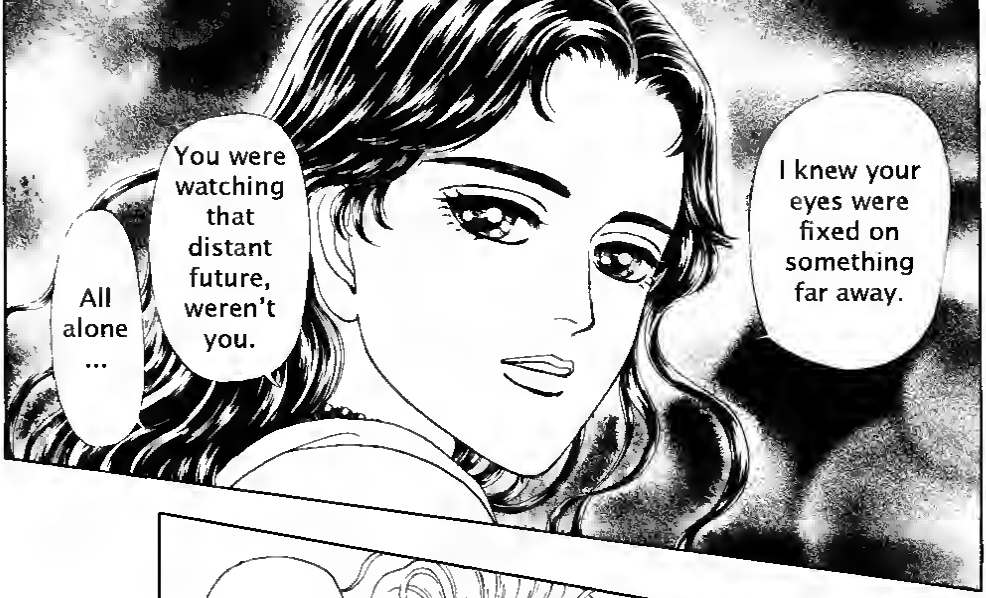
More than 10,000 years in the future, that god...

...will descend to this world.


Look there.
Some-thing's shi-ning...
That holds all sorts of knowledge.
Oh...
The sacred mirror?
When the time comes, it will become a shield that repels power of all kinds. If necessary, it will become a weapon as well...


More than 10,000 years from now, the one god will descend from the cosmos to this planet...
"The time" ...?
...
Like... Lord Amane?
A god of harmony who will give all, and take everything...
...in the name of peace.
To see if, from among those who held their teachings, one would appear who could turn "that" to dust.
This was a test by the gods that cannot be seen...

Amane, God of Universal Good...
And you and Takaya did turn her to dust...
...people who reject that peace and choose their own path of evolution are bound to appear.
When the one god who promises peace has descended to this world...
In the far distant future ...
They will appear from among those with memories of many gods and the teachings of the gods that cannot be seen...


I knew your eyes were fixed on something far away.
You were watching that distant future, weren't you.
All alone ...

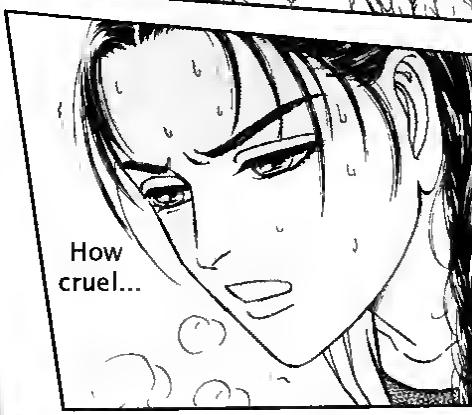
Why am I here?
But Yachio ...

Why me?

Yes...

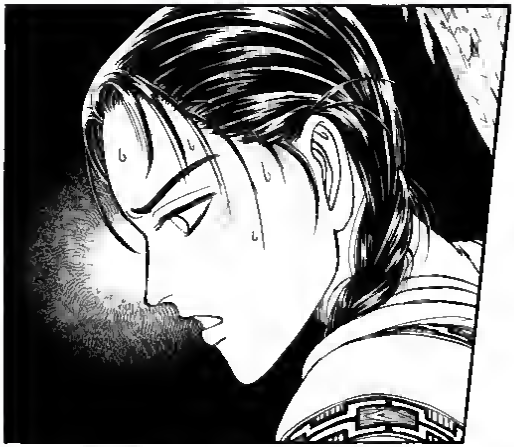
Because wars carve themselves...

...deep into the soul...



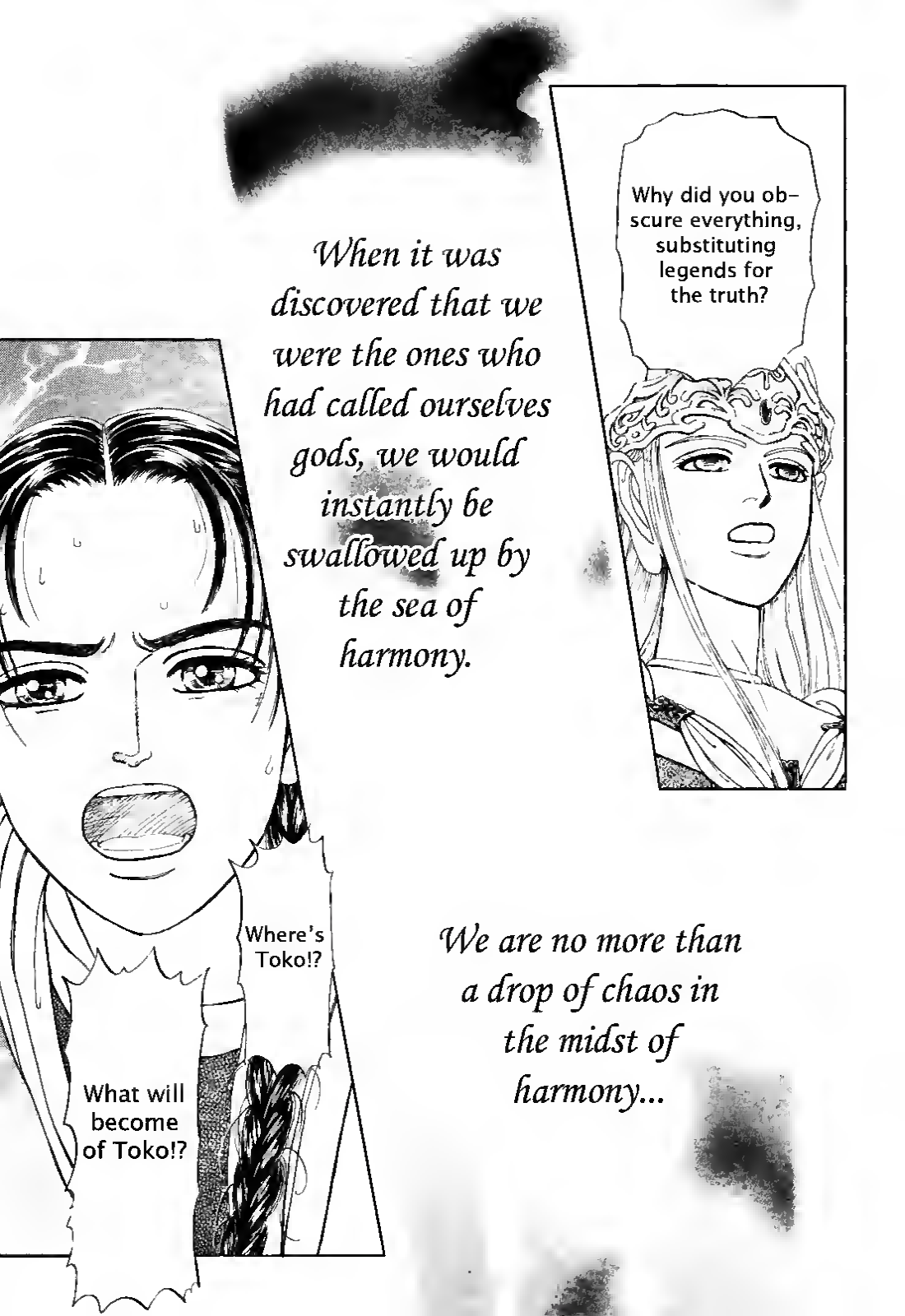
Do you know how cruel that is!?
Do you know how many people died for it!? What they felt!?
Why do I exist?
Why was I alone created like this?

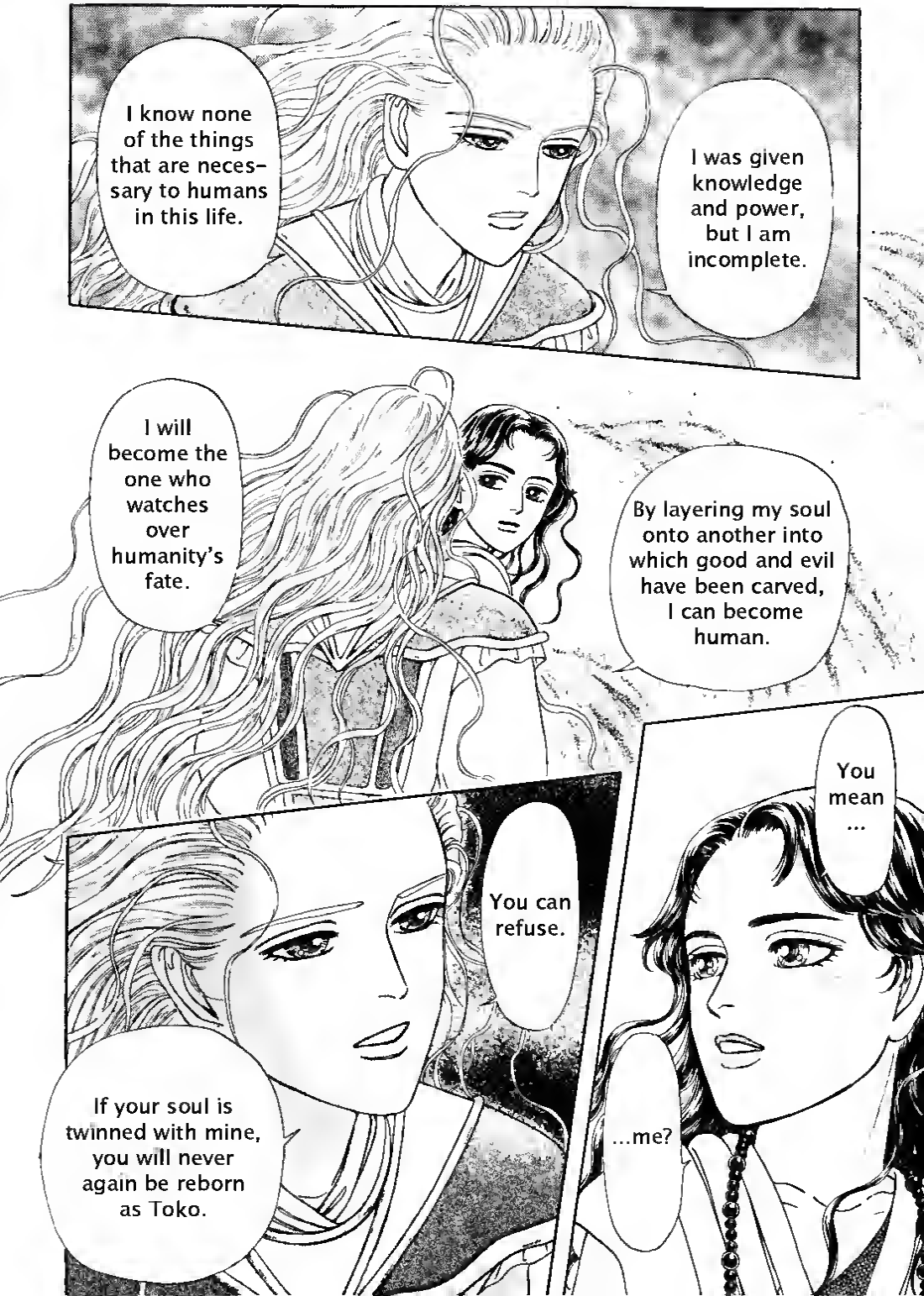
...deep into the soul...

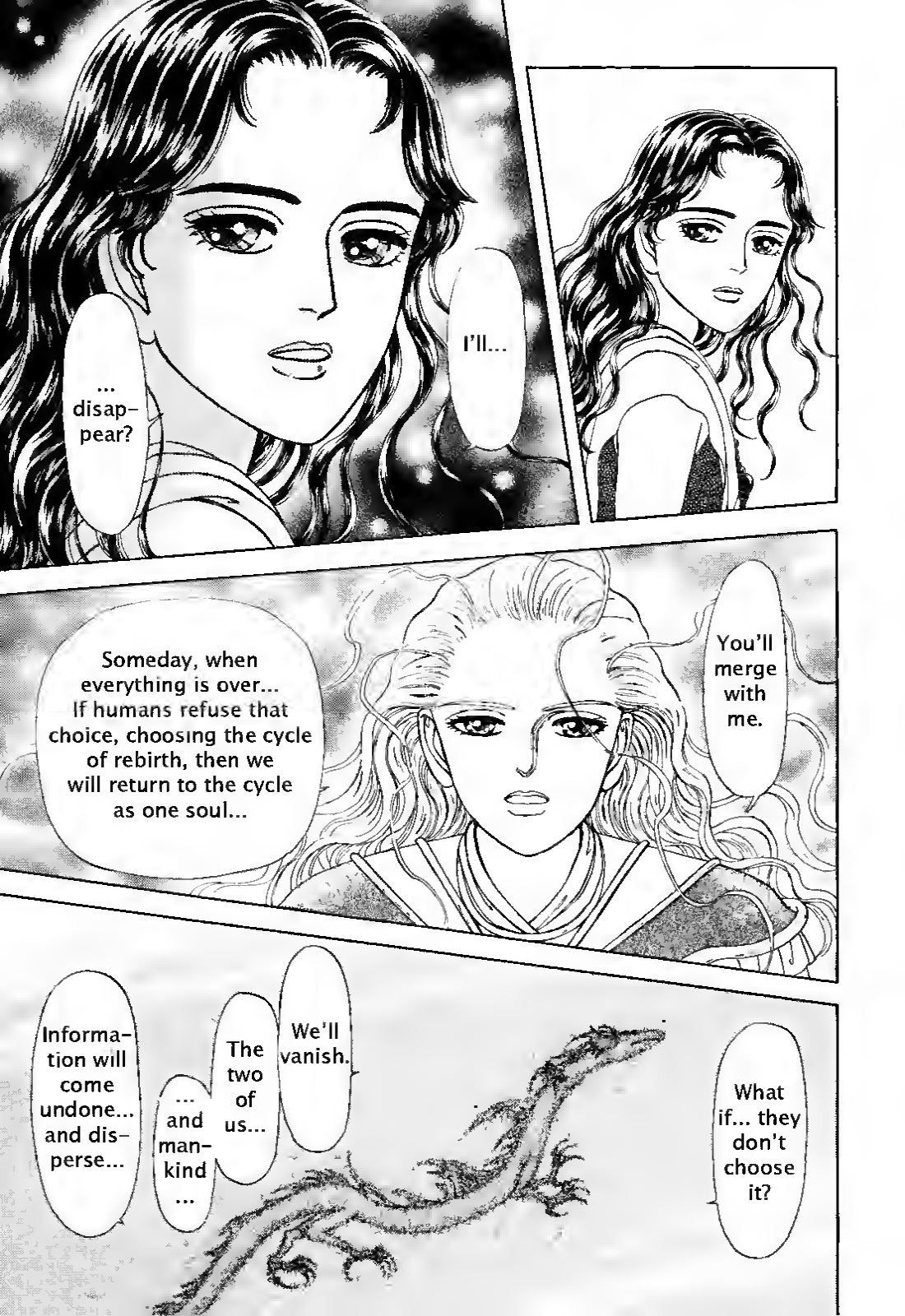


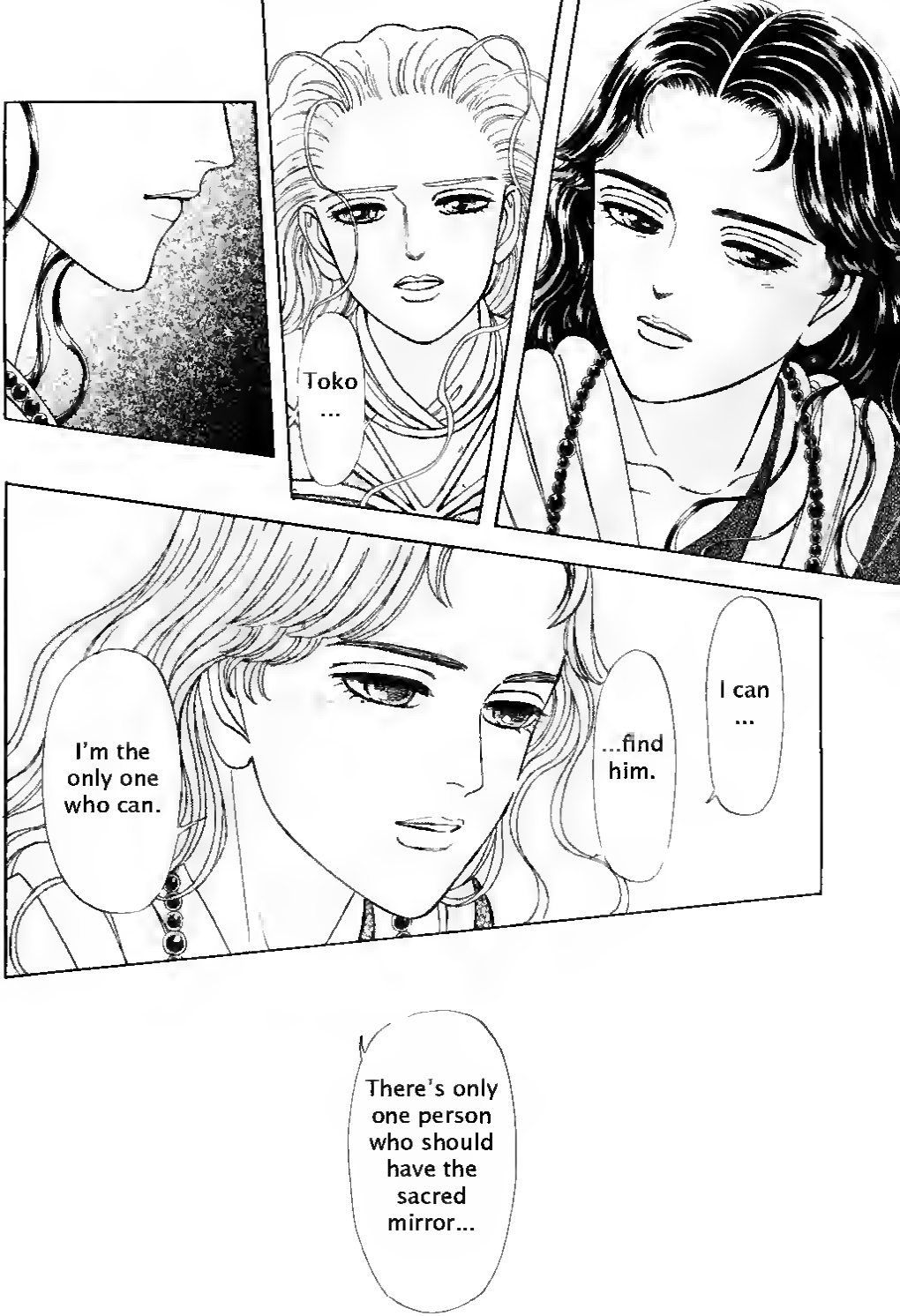
You were meant to find the soul who could win against...

...the pleasure of the demon headband, and reject Amane's peace.


Why did you obscure everything, substituting legends for the truth?
When it was discovered that we were the ones who had called ourselves gods, we would instantly be swallowed up by the sea of harmony.
Where's Toko!?
What will become of Toko!?
We are no more than a drop of chaos in the midst of harmony...


I know none of the things that are necessary to humans in this life.
I was given knowledge and power, but I am incomplete.
I will become the one who watches over humanity's fate.
By layering my soul onto another into which good and evil have been carved, I can become human.
You mean ...
...me?
You can refuse.
If your soul is twinned with mine, you will never again be reborn as Toko.


... disap-pear?
I'll...
You'll merge with me.
Someday, when everything is over... If humans refuse that choice, choosing the cycle of rebirth, then we will return to the cycle as one soul...
What if... they don't choose it?
We'll vanish.
The two of us...
... and man-kind ...
Informa-tion will come undone... and dis-perse...


Toko ...
I can ...
...find him.
I'm the only one who can.
There's only one person who should have the sacred mirror...

Toko agreed to that!?
She said she alone can find the one to whom the sacred mirror must be given... In other words...
Stop!

I'll never allow it!
If it hadn't been for this war, Kai wouldn't have died like that!
I...
...will ... never ...

RM
RM
RM
RM
RM
RM
RM
Allow it!!

This system of information that rejects even us...

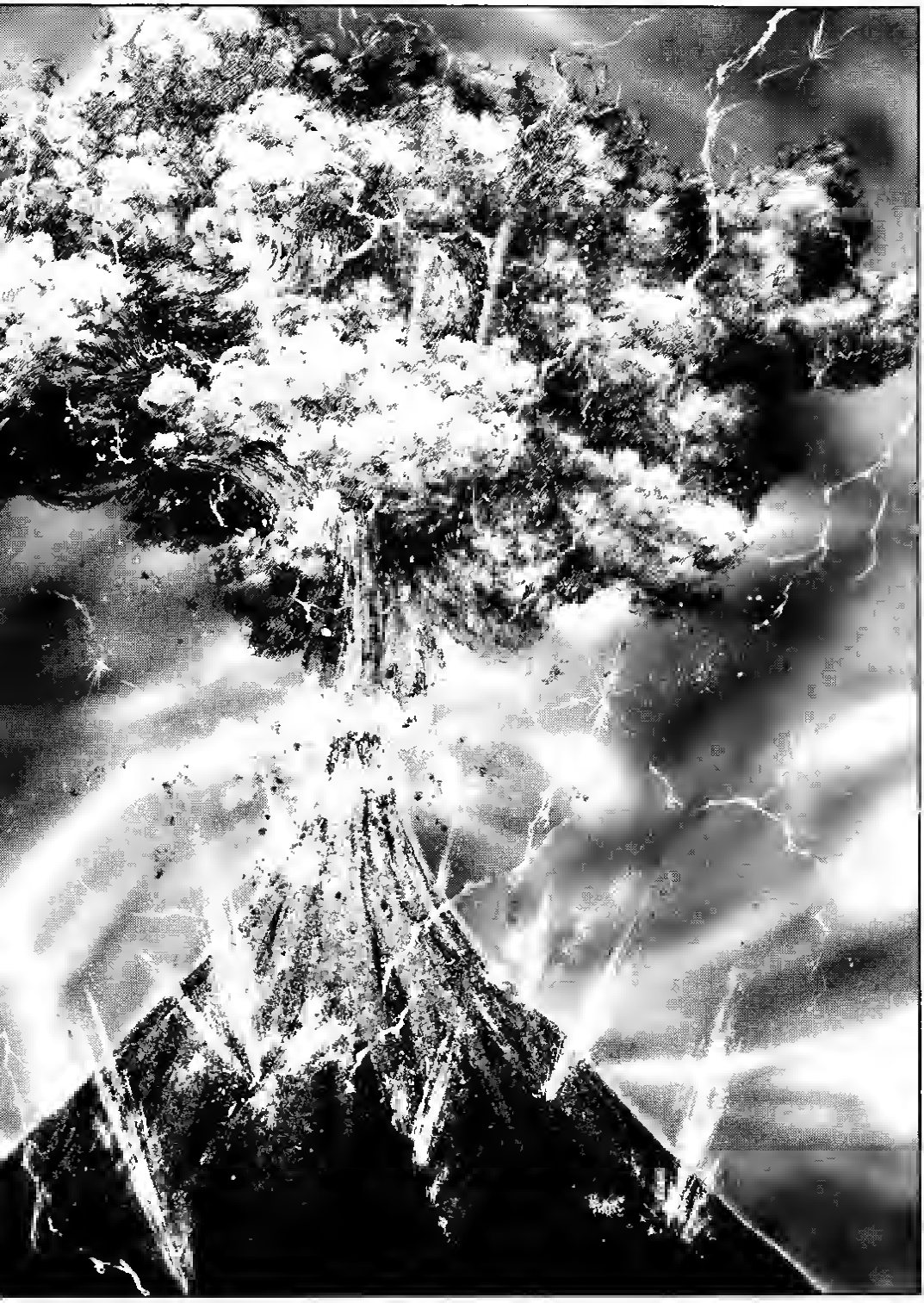
This power, born of chaotic information...

This is...

...what we seek.

This disharmony...

As I cherished Yoko...
Feel it.
So the gods that cannot be seen cherish humanity...
Ah...



Taka-
ya...
I'll find
you. I
promise.

No matter how you change ...
Toko ...
Let's... meet again.
...I'll find you, and I'll protect you...

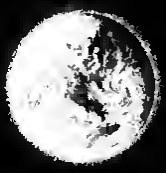
I be-
lieve
you...
If you
say it's
so,
then...

...to protect all that's linked to you...

...I'll fight as often as it takes...

Look... Toko...
That's our world.

A beautiful blue jewel...



Being twinned with you
has saved me from loneliness.

Well, I was happy.

Once my wavelength blends with yours,
you'll be happy, too.

I'm sure that all people are born
to be happy...

You were happy? Even now,
as you disappear?

We're becoming one now.
Don't be scared.

You truly are a miraculous girl...

Toko...

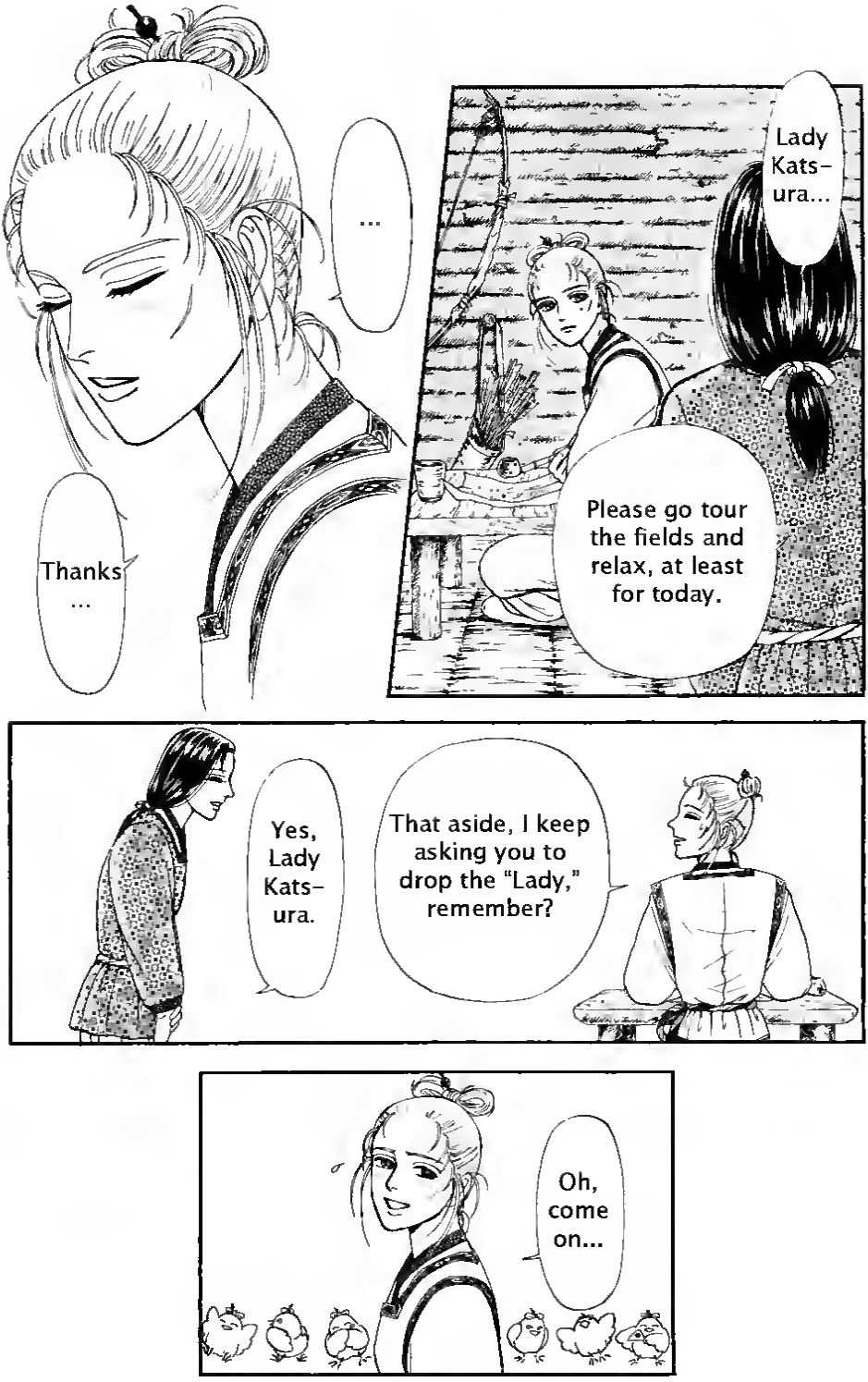
Are you crying?

Yoko...?

Oh... It's "me" who's crying...

Lady Ka-tsura.
The villages of Tafu and Isa are quar-reling...
Quar-reling?
Yes, about the irri-gation work.
I've just redrawn those plans.
I'll stop by tomor-row.
By the way, how is Korima of Ohara?

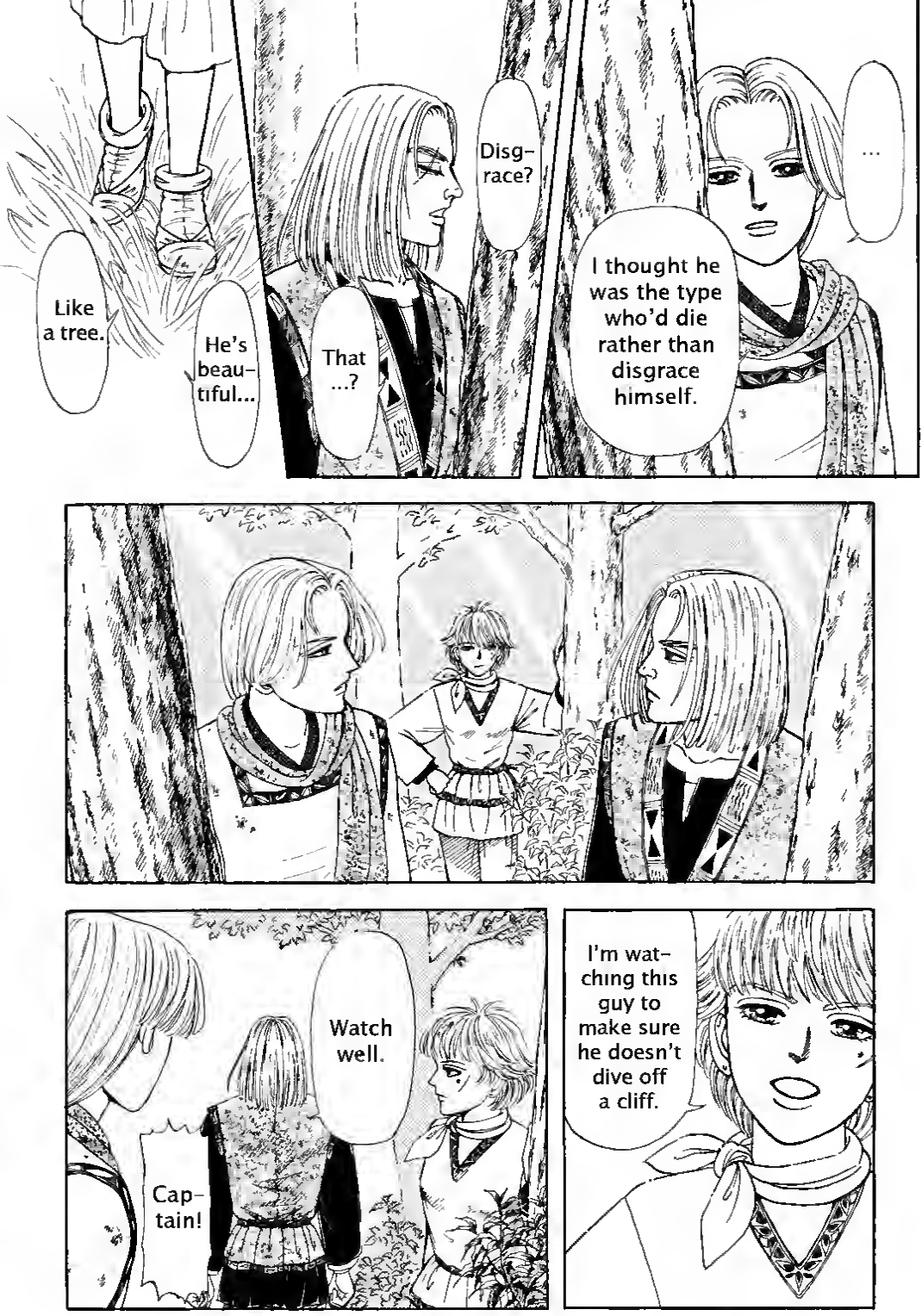
I... um...
You seemed busy, Lady Katsura, so... I compounded medicinal herbs...
Oh... I did it just the way you taught me...
That's fine. Please keep it up.
Collect the compounding methods and send them around to the villages.
I should have had him teach me more.
We relied on him all the time...
Um ...
Where is Aohiko today?
Kyoji took him out to the field.
If that guy's on duty, I don't have to worry.


...
Thanks ...
Lady Kats-ura...
Please go tour the fields and relax, at least for today.
Yes, Lady Kats-ura.
That aside, I keep asking you to drop the "Lady," remember?
Oh, come on...

The wind sure feels great!

Guess that sounds weird coming from me, huh?

The sky's blue!
No matter what happens, the flowers bloom...
If his eyes were to open, they'd stay that way.
Because he doesn't blink.
Why the blind-fold ...?


Like a tree.
He's beau-tiful...
That ...?
Disg-race?
I thought he was the type who'd die rather than disgrace himself.
...
Watch well.
Cap-tain!
I'm wat-ching this guy to make sure he doesn't dive off a cliff.

I'll round them up and form a mountain tribe.
Even with the demon gods gone, scoundrels are everywhere.
Where will you go now?
Wander until you stop wanting to die.
You wander.
No.
I'll go with-

If you're gonna be a bad guy, you'd better be one like that.
Wow.
He was a really great guy, wasn't he?
You're like a lost little kid...
Even though, before you met him, you only saw the past.
You're watching the present with a lost kid's eyes.

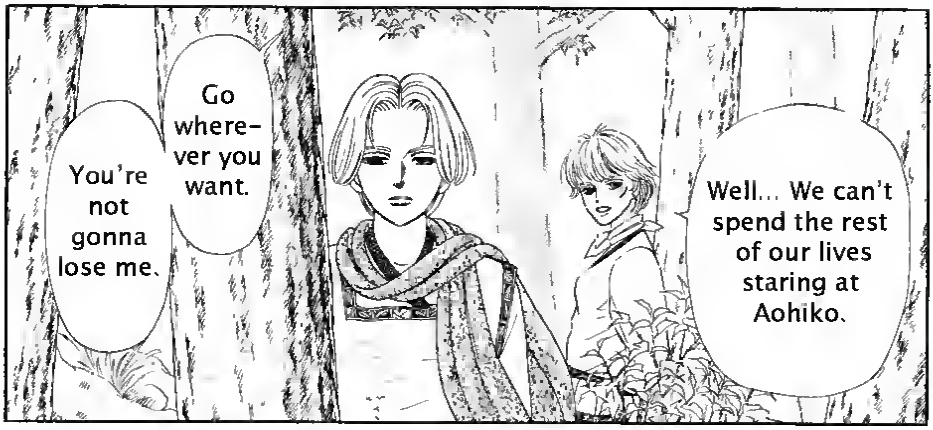
Before I met him, I only saw the present.
Now I can see tomorrow, more's the pity...
And the day after, and long after that, and things other than myself...

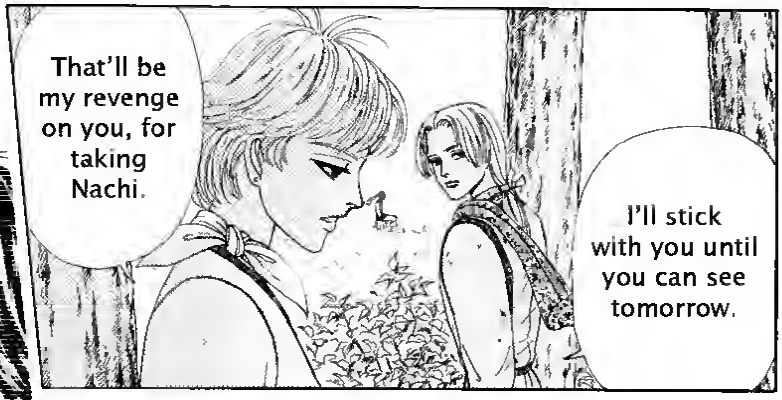
I'm lost, too. The world abruptly opened up... and I'm scared.
The world that's normal for him is too wide for us...

So I hate him.
Because I'm scared ...

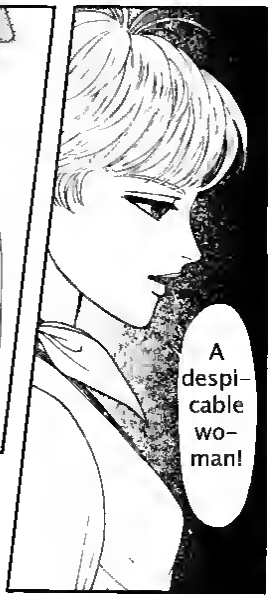
He told him "Thank you for telling me"...
Even to Kyoji ...
He said "thank you" to me, over and over. To me.
The world he has will expand endlessly...
It's dee-per. Hig-her.
What a terri-fying world.
It's not just superficial, like knowledge or wisdom.
He'd probably been so diluted he couldn't tell himself and Nachi apart anymore.
Maybe the wider your world is, the more diluted you get.
...and Aohiko broke himself to accept it.
Nachi used the weight of his own life to bind him here...

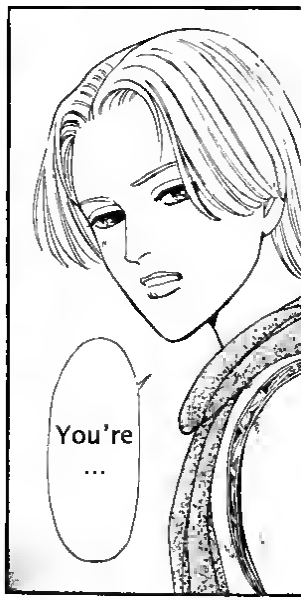
He really is beauti-ful...
I don't know of any living thing more beautiful.
Maybe he's become something else en-tirely.
I wonder what the gods that cannot be seen gave him...
A wide...
...world...


You're not gonna lose me.
Go where-ver you want.
Well... We can't spend the rest of our lives staring at Aohiko.

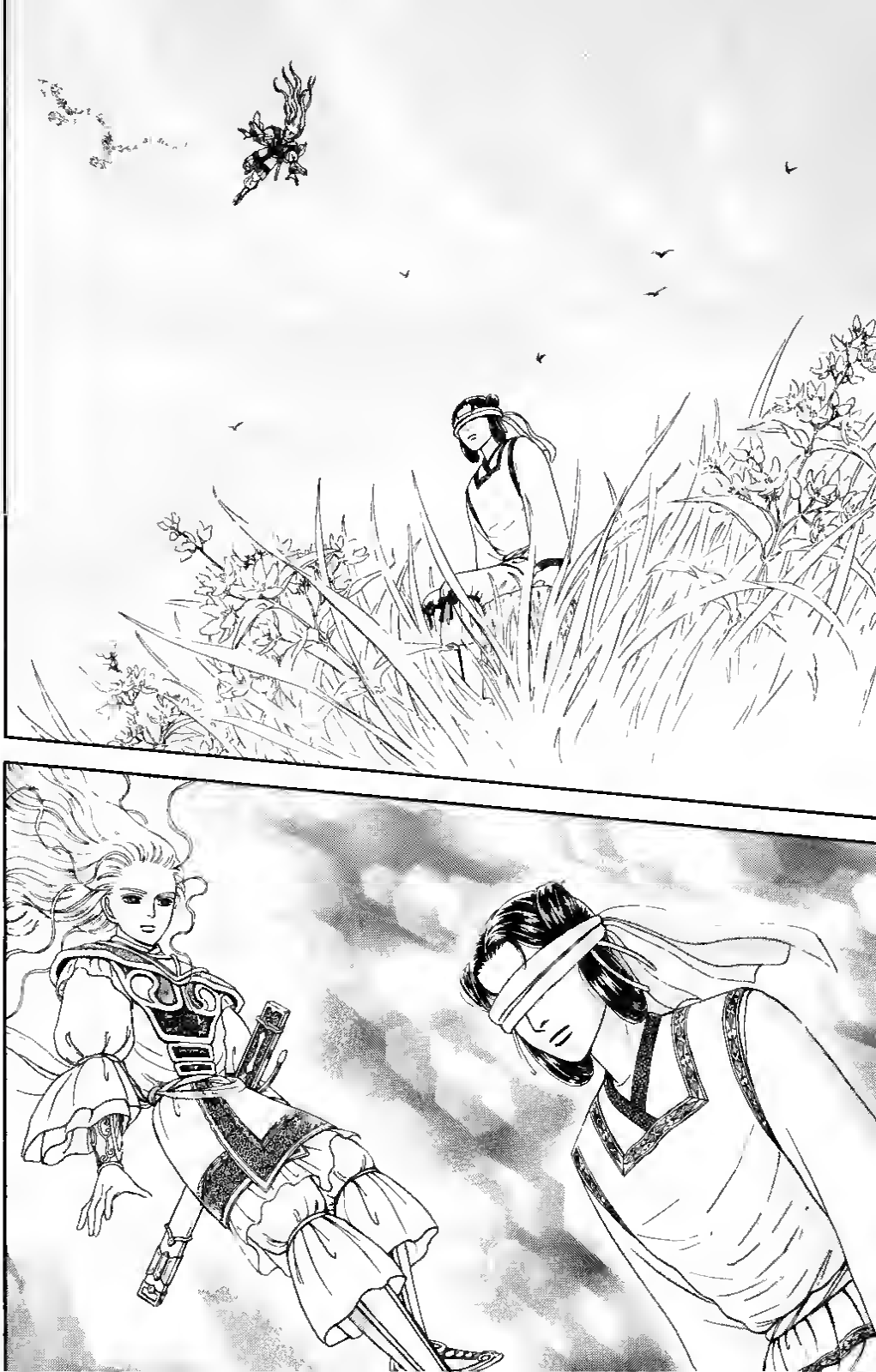

That'll be my revenge on you, for taking Nachi.
I'll stick with you until you can see tomorrow.

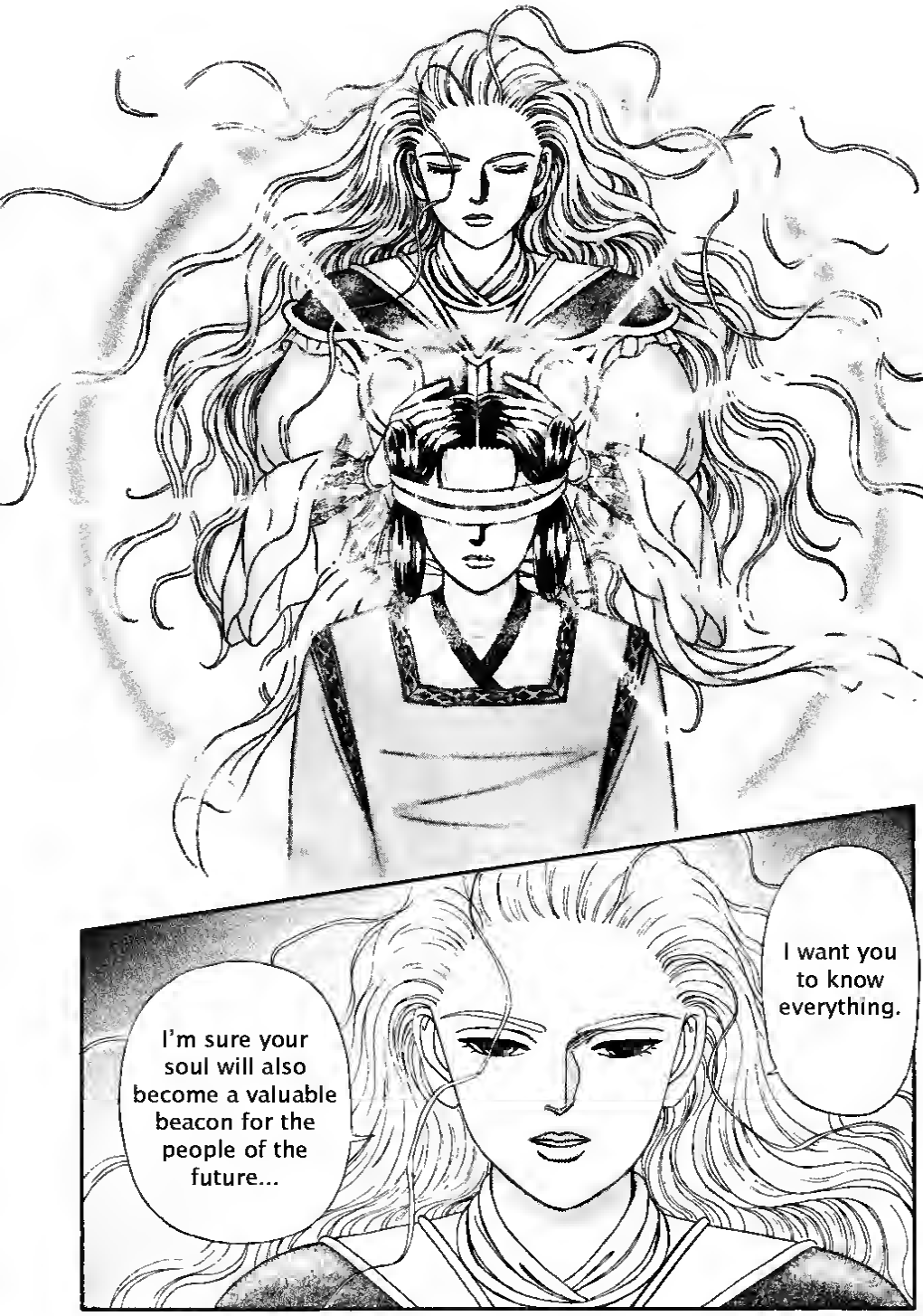
Call me that.


A despi-cable wo-man!

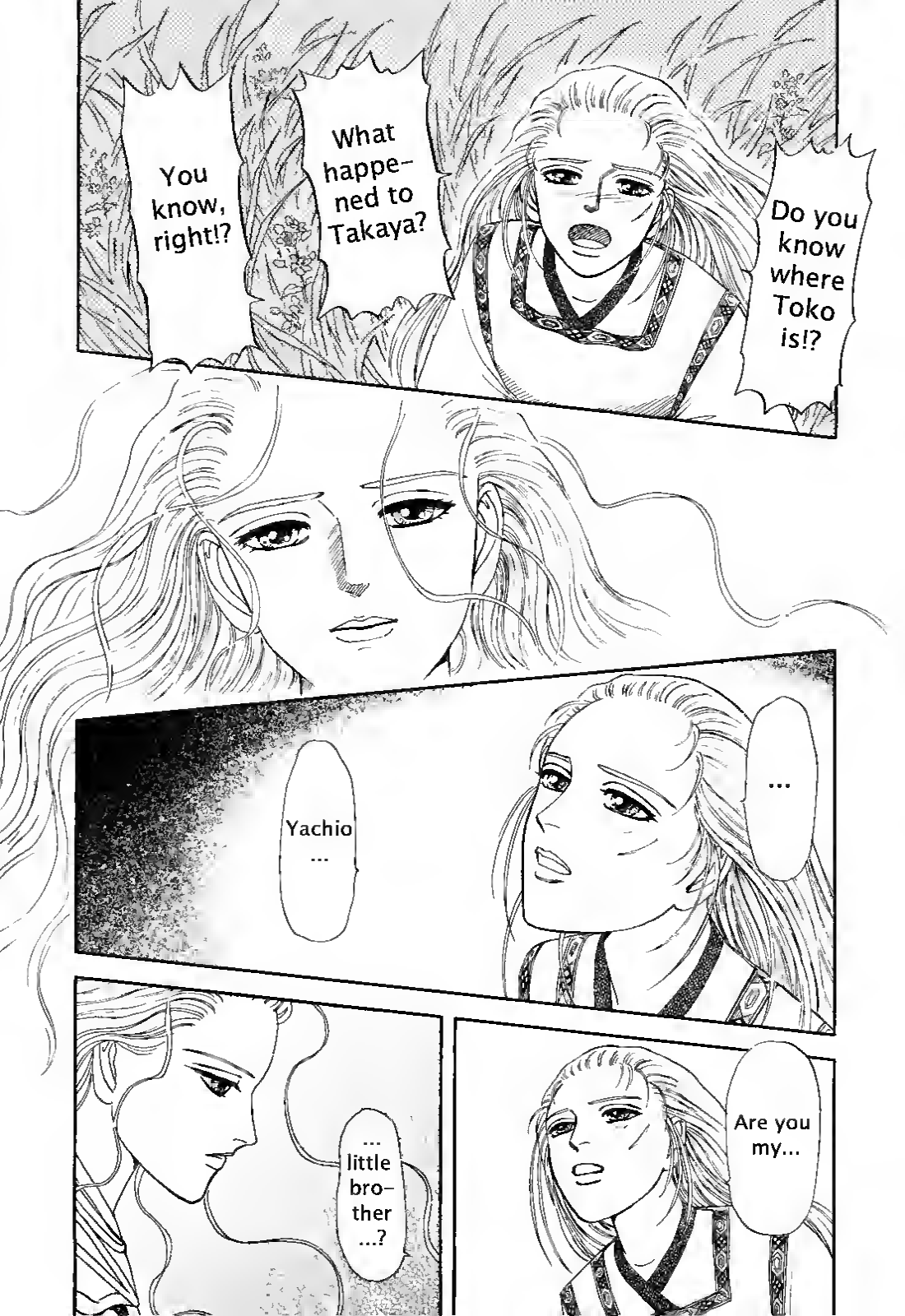

You're ...

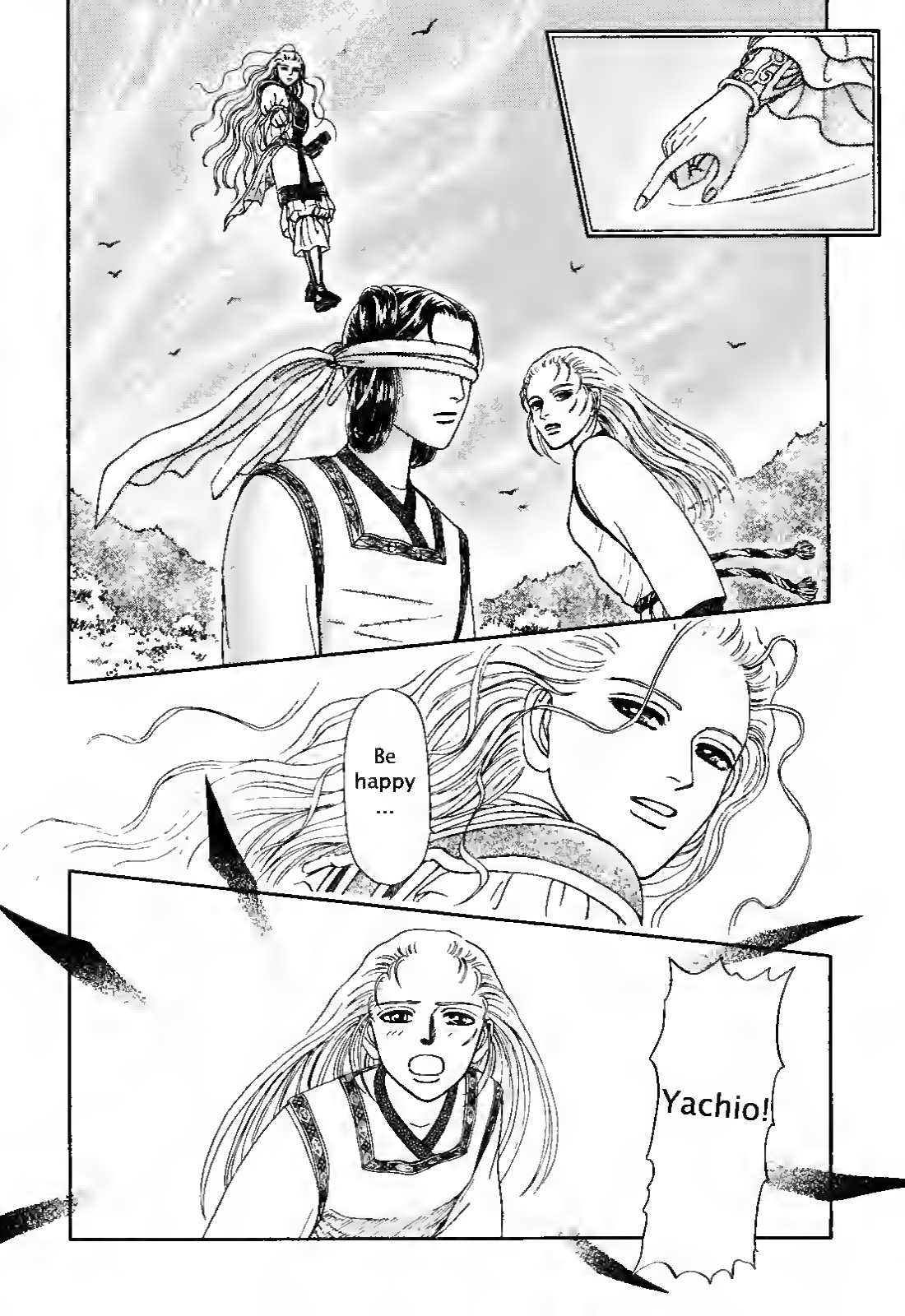
No help for it, I guess
What? Again?
Tabou climbed a big tree, and he can't get down.
Kyo-jiii!
I'll be right back. Don't you go anywhere.

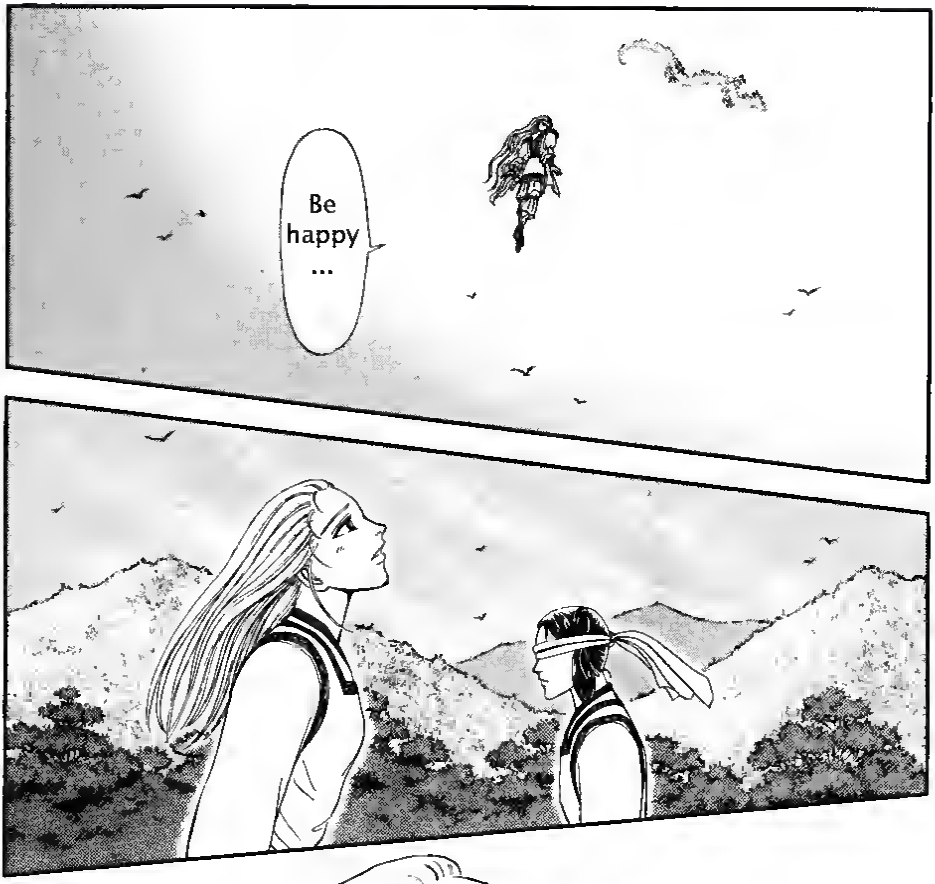



I want you to know everything.
I'm sure your soul will also become a valuable beacon for the people of the future...

Wait!
Wait!
Yachio!
That's you, isn't it?


Do you know where Toko is!?
What happened to Takaya?
You know, right!?
...
Yachio ...
Are you my...
... little brother ...?


Be happy ...
Yachio!


Be happy ...

"Be happy," he says...

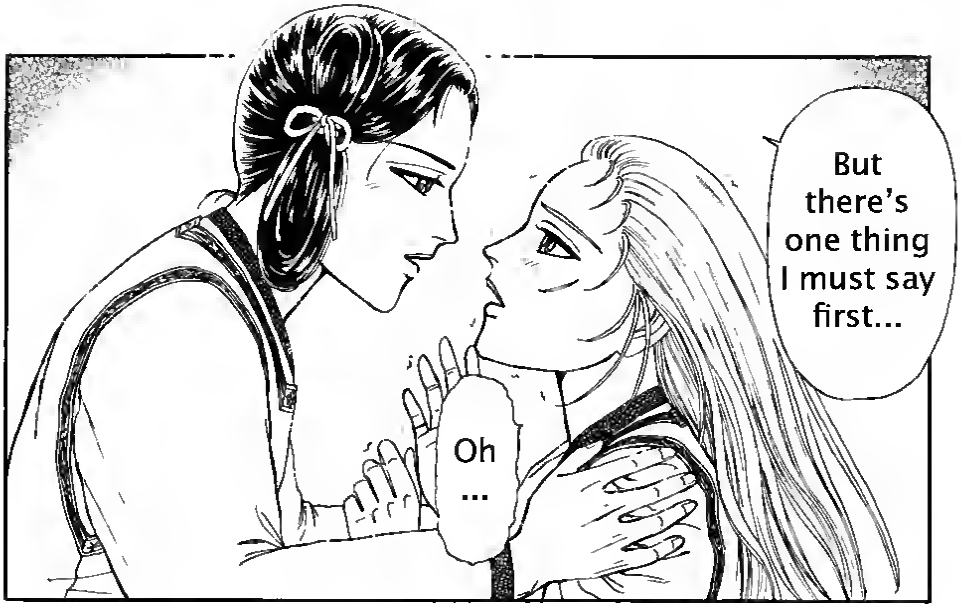
I am happy, right now.

And when I found that new comb you had...
When Kyoji told me that's what you'd asked him to do...
"If Katsura needs it, please give her this body."

Do you have any idea how happy I was?

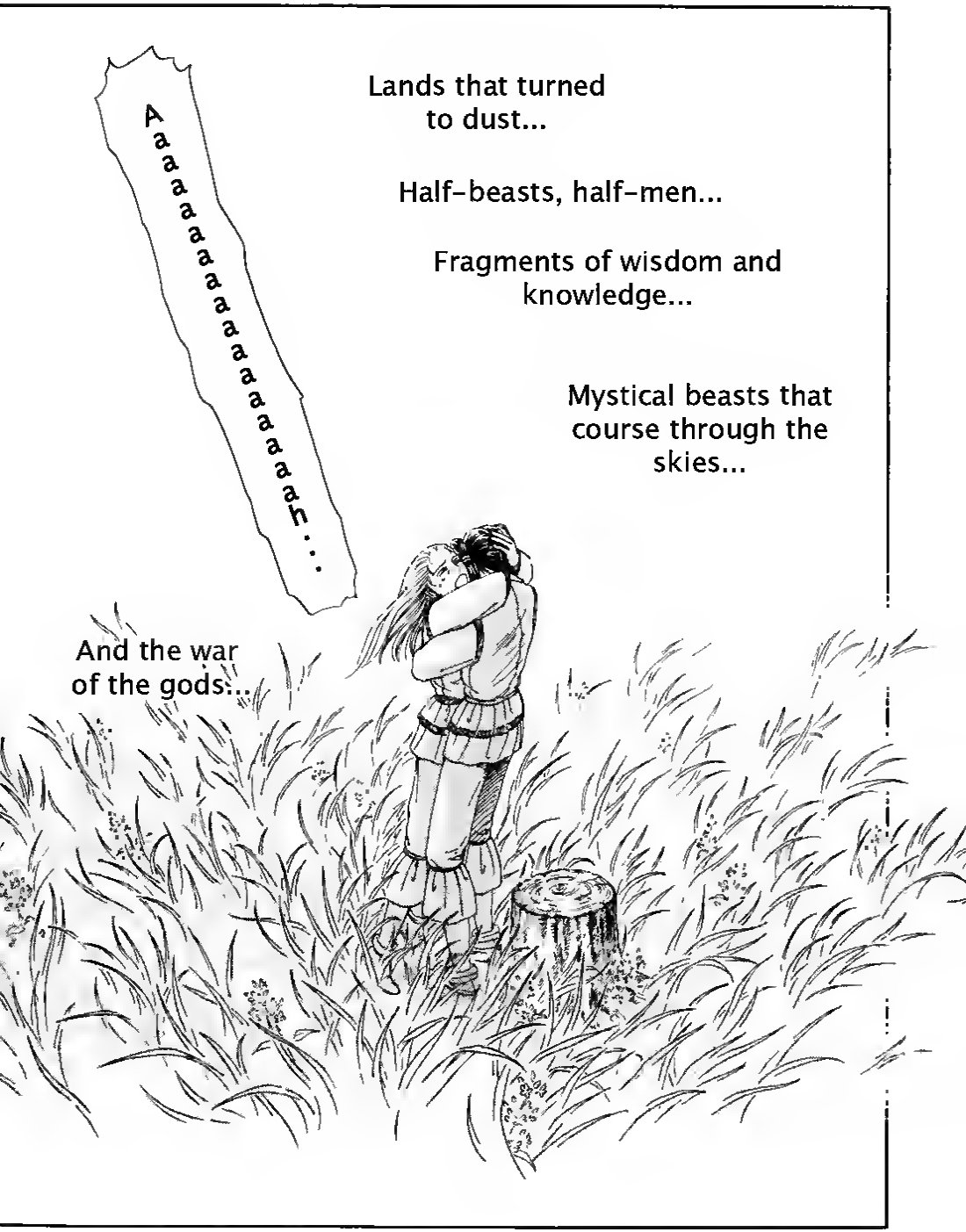
You stayed here with me. Only you...
...gone. Everyone's gone.
They're all...

I have so many things ...
...to tell you...


But there's one thing I must say first...
Oh ...

...

Ah...
Ah...
Ah...
ah...
aaa
aah...

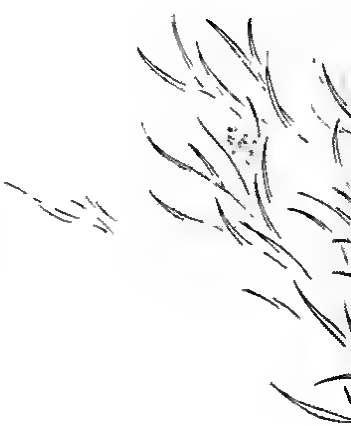

Aaaa

All these things will be etched into countless souls and rise again as legends, down through the generations.

They are this world's divine name.

Chaos upon chaos...
Rebirth from chaos...
The expansion of information through rebirth...

...and a new universe...



The gods are
not one god.

This will be
our fortress...
The End

Itihasa 15

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